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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 25, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

PROCEED WITH IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise because I love my country, and I also rise because I believe that we are currently in a constitutional crisis.

The executive branch of the government is refusing to honor subpoenas lawfully issued by committees of the Congress. The executive branch of the government does not respect the judiciary.

We are in a constitutional crisis. We have a duty, an obligation, and a responsibility to do something about this.

So I rise today, Mr. Speaker, some 99 days after the Mueller report was made public. The Mueller report has been thoroughly vetted by the Members of Congress to the extent that we have talked about it and have proclaimed that there are impeachable acts that are clearly indicated within the Mueller report. The Mueller report has been discussed ad infinitum and ad nauseam by Members of Congress.

I am not saying that everybody knows what is in it, but I do know that there is a notion that there is a Mueller report and that that report has information in it—evidence, if you will—that is antithetical to the President and would, in some circumstances, be such that we would bring Articles of Impeachment.

I would also indicate that we are now 1 day since Mr. Mueller testified before the Congress of the United States of America, the Judiciary Committee and the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. Mueller has written his report. He has testified before Congress, and now the question really becomes: What are we going to do? Will we seek additional testimony? I am not opposed to it, but I do believe this: At some point, we will start to see evidence of what Dr. King called the paralysis of analysis. I believe that we are now seeing the initial evidence, if we haven't seen it before, of the paralysis of analysis.

This paralysis is something that will stall us to the extent that someone will move forward and say, rather than impeach, let's defeat.

I am not one of them. I believe that, if we violate Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, then we ought to enforce that law. No one is above the law in the United States of America.

We must honor Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, which deals with

impeachment. If we do not, history will not be kind to us. It especially will not be kind to those of us who are in control of this House.

We decide what comes to the floor. We decide what the agenda is. History will not be kind to us if we don't take up our duty, responsibility, and obligation pursuant to Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, we are at the crossroads of accountability. Either we will hold the Chief Executive accountable, or we will be held accountable. I pray that we will do that which the Framers of the Constitution fully intended, and that is to proceed with impeachment when you have a Chief Executive who is causing harm to society.

This is a seminal moment in time for those of us who are in charge of this House. Either we will act, or we will be acted upon.

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

CALLING FOR REJECTION OF THE BDS MOVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the failure of some Members of the House of Representatives to condemn the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, BDS, movement that seeks to sabotage and undermine the State of Israel is appalling to me.

Instead of empowering a movement that seeks to isolate Israel, we should be supporting our greatest ally in the Middle East.

I have seen firsthand that BDS efforts violate the core goals of universities, which thrive—or should thrive—on open exchange and debate. And I reject the rationale of some Members

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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who voted against the resolution under the guise of free speech.

H. Res. 246, voted on this week, echoes many resolutions that I have broadly supported. In February, House Republicans put forth one such measure to reject anti-Semitism in all forms.

Astonishingly, some House Members expressed dissent during the voice vote on this motion. However, once a recorded vote was called, the motion passed 424-0.

This week, the majority leadership took the path of least resistance from its far-left Members by putting on the floor another resolution to condemn anti-Semitism but refusing to debate legislation with the teeth necessary to push back against the hateful BDS movement.

Support of Israel has long enjoyed bipartisan consensus, and real action against the BDS movement must be taken. I and 195 other Republicans signed onto a discharge petition for H.R. 336, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act, to bring this legislation before the full House for an up-or-down vote.

H.R. 336 imposes direct and concrete penalties on the BDS movement by allowing State and local governments to adopt laws to divest public funds from groups or organizations that boycott Israel.

S. 1, the Senate companion to H.R. 336, passed with strong bipartisan support, 77-23. By passing H.R. 336, this House would send a clear message that the BDS movement's anti-Semitic messages and actions will be met with firm consequences in the United States.

It is important that we stand in opposition to the BDS movement and stand with our strongest ally in the Middle East.

We must reject the BDS movement with the full force of law and continue to support Israel as the major strategic partner that this body has long enshrined in our laws, our policy priorities, and our hearts and minds.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS HURTS ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Oregon, like much of the country, is facing a housing affordability crisis that is hurting families and the economy.

I recently held six listening sessions in the district I represent. In every community—urban, suburban, and rural—I heard from individuals, employers, local officials, and nonprofits that told me the lack of affordable housing is having serious consequences around northwest Oregon.

Over the last several years, housing costs have gone up significantly, but wages have not. Available housing stock has not kept up with demand, driving prices higher and higher. Much

of the new housing that is being built is unaffordable for middle- and low-income households.

To afford a modest one-bedroom unit at fair market rent, someone earning minimum wage in Yamhill County, Oregon, for example, would need to work 65 hours a week. In Multnomah County, someone would need to work 81 hours a week to pay for a modest one-bedroom apartment—81 hours a week.

Housing is foundational. It forms the bedrock of a family's stability and security, and it is vital to each person's full participation in society.

The toll of this crisis on families and communities is devastating, and it is also hampering economic growth. I heard time and again from employers who are struggling to attract workers in areas where housing was unaffordable or unavailable, employees commuting long hours because they cannot afford to live closer to their jobs.

In Columbia County, for example, I heard how the lack of affordable housing for just one individual negatively affected the whole community. The county government recruited a highly qualified new finance director from another State, only to have that person struggle to find a permanent place to live. After staying in an RV for 4 months, she finally had to quit in the middle of budget season because she could not find a place to live.

Federal policies and resources are a vital part of addressing this true national crisis. Unfortunately, Federal support for cost-burdened individuals and families is severely insufficient and declining.

According to the Oregon Center for Public Policy, more than one-third of Oregon households are cost-burdened. That is 530,000 households spending more than 30 percent of their income on shelter, with some spending more than half of their income for a place to live.

Despite that tremendous need, only one out of every five eligible families receives any Federal housing assistance. Wait lists at public housing authorities often stretch into years.

At the Federal level, we have many tools to help address these problems: tax incentives, voucher programs, public housing, and grants that empower nonprofits and communities that implement local strategies. But the resources Congress provides are woefully insufficient.

We need to do much more if we honestly want to make sure that every person in our communities has the dignity and stability of a roof over their head.

Mr. Speaker, this crisis is why I support transformative legislation like the American Housing and Economic Mobility Act. It would invest \$445 billion to create 3 million deeply affordable homes and cut rental costs by 10 percent.

I also strongly support the Ending Homelessness Act to comprehensively

address chronic homelessness by providing a surge of resources that will drastically expand access to housing and case management that integrates healthcare and other supportive services. Our communities are better and families will thrive when everyone has a home.

Ultimately, any solution will require a determined and coordinated effort by all stakeholders, including community activists, developers, lenders, nonprofit leaders, and elected officials at every level of government.

Congress must step up and be part of the solution. I ask my colleagues to join me today in committing to bold action to address the housing affordability crisis in Oregon and across the country.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HIRE A VETERAN DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize today, July 25, as National Hire A Veteran Day.

In 2017, the nonprofit Hire Our Heroes established the day to highlight the many talented men and women who served our country and are now seeking civilian employment.

Hire Our Heroes serves as a resource bank for veterans to seek professional advice, discover new training opportunities, and search for new job opportunities.

Our Nation's veterans are some of the most dedicated and selfless individuals who call this great Nation home. While we may never be able to repay them for their sacrifice fully, the very least we can do is to help ease the transition back into civilian life.

A big part of that transition is ensuring there are well-paying, family-sustaining jobs available for our men and women in uniform when they return home.

The most recent numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show veteran unemployment at 3.2 percent, the lowest rate since 2011. That is great news, but that does not mean our work here is done.

As a proud father of an Army infantryman, I am proud to have supported legislation throughout my time in Congress that ensures our Active Duty servicemembers and their spouses have the tools they need to defend our country successfully. But it is critical that we also support legislation that prepares our veterans for adjusting to life after combat.

There are more than 7 million open jobs across the country. Our veterans want to work, and service is in their veins.

□ 1015

They want to make an honest living and provide for their families. They

want to learn new skills and be proud of the work that they do. It is important that we do our part to ensure these opportunities are available.

We can bolster veteran employment opportunities with career and technical education. Many of the men and women seeking civilian employment are already highly skilled, highly trained. They are experienced, literally, under fire.

The skills that come with CTE training can help expand our veterans' existing skill sets and prepare them for careers in STEM disciplines, nursing, construction, information technology, energy, cybersecurity, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans are a huge part of what makes this country so great. They have chosen to risk their lives to protect our Nation. We have the opportunity, no, the responsibility to provide them with the best possible care and to empower them with the necessary tools to make smart career decisions when we welcome them home.

Hire Our Heroes says the best way to thank a veteran is to hire one. We should all keep this in mind as we celebrate our Nation's veterans today and for many more days to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BARBARA KELLER

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, there are people whose empathy and compassion glow like a beacon, and others whose shine like the sun.

That was Barbara Keller: A blazing star of kindness and an inspiring local leader who lived to serve others, championed causes that uplifted the sick, the poor, and fought for the rights of the LGBTQ community.

For 3 decades, Barbara called California's Coachella Valley home. Barbara and her husband, Jerry, brought award-winning restaurants to the Coachella Valley. But it was Barbara's generosity and commitment to serving others that made her so remarkable.

Barbara was a champion for combating HIV/AIDS through her leadership as the first female president of the Desert AIDS Project. Barbara was moved by the deaths and suffering of many HIV-infected friends living on the margins, facing injustice and discrimination in their struggle to live. She brought hope and healthcare to so many individuals living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV or AIDS.

As a doctor, I had the honor of working with Barbara on the Desert AIDS Project in our shared advocacy for the health of local and medically underserved communities.

Barbara's annual Steve Chase Awards fundraisers were a fixture of the Coachella Valley, as was her incredible gala dress fashion, second only to her beauty and class.

Barbara also lent her compassion to defending the health of patients while

working with the AIDS Assistance Project and the Loma Linda Children's Hospital.

During her years of service to our communities, Barbara also helped grow our desert's art scene through organizations like the Palm Springs Art Museum and the McCallum Theatre.

Barbara's generosity in her public life was complemented by her extraordinary kindness in her private life.

My wife, Monica, and I knew Barbara as a dear, dear, friend and a wonderful role model to our daughters, Sky and Sage. I was constantly personally touched by her loving nature, her unwavering support and encouragement, and her dedication to her higher purpose.

Barbara most treasured her family, and her greatest pleasure was being a loving wife, a mother, a daughter, and grandmother.

Barbara devotedly cared for her aging father, Marvin Cohn, until he passed away in March at 106 years old, never once telling him she was undergoing intense chemotherapy for breast cancer. Barbara's death soon followed the following month on April 15, 2019.

Barbara and her husband Jerry's marriage was a love story few can claim and a touching example of the power of true love.

Barbara leaves behind her devoted husband, Jerry, her son, Brad, her daughters, Lindsay, Lisa, and Kelly, and her seven grandchildren, Taylor, Rebekah, Graham, Ridley, Greta, Eva, and Levon, and her sister, Carole.

While Barbara's passing deeply saddens me, her memory will live on in my heart and in the hearts of the countless individuals whose lives she touched.

In an era of "me first," ego-driven, selfish ambition, Barbara reminds us that love, kindness, and genuine service to others is possible. She is the embodiment of good, humility, strength, and outer and inner beauty. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she improved and inspired. And she was a giant, a social architect, designing a healthier, kinder, more just community.

Knowing Barbara, and calling her my friend, was an incredible, unique, and beautiful blessing in my life. And her story must be told and recorded in our national records, so that generations to come can learn the vast potential of our national spirit.

She will be missed.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GROVER DAVIS

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary man. He is from Bay County, Florida, and I am fortunate to have him as a dear friend of mine, Mr. Grover Davis.

Grover was born into a fishing family in December of 1941 in Parker, Florida, and he learned the value of hard work

at a young age. He built fishing boats with his father and his brothers, leading his family to own the first charter fishing boats in Panama City.

When his father died, Grover dropped out of high school and worked with his brothers to support the family. They made a living in the charter fishing business, with young Grover below deck keeping the boats running. He still keeps the boats running 70 years later.

He learned a lot about life at a young age. He met his wonderful wife, Judy, at Bay High School, and married her in 1961.

By the 1970s, the Davis family was managing the St. Andrews Marina, and Grover became interested in a new business venture. In 1974, he began Marine Transportation Services, which provided transport services for oil and gas companies in the Gulf of Mexico. Marine Transportation Services has truly become a family affair, with his wife, Judy, and his daughters, Kim and Kerrie, joining him at the helm.

Grover treats all of his employees like family. In fact, 50 percent of his employees started at Marine Transportation right out of high school and still work there to this day.

He is unfailingly supportive of all of his employees. When they make a mistake, he doesn't let them go. He is famous for sitting with them and saying: "Did you learn something from this?"

His favorite phrase is: "There are only two kinds of captains; those who have run aground and those who are about to run aground."

Grover truly leads by example in all aspects of his life, and he has spent much of his life giving back to the community. He is a big supporter of Camo Dreams, a nonprofit that helps disabled children go on hunting trips, and routinely supported events for the Girl Scouts when his daughters were growing up.

Grover, his wife, Judy, and his daughters, have long since cemented their place in the firmament of stars that are the foundation of our community back home.

He has always preached that honor is the most important value among people, and no one person is better than another. He never asks anyone to do what he would not do himself.

Judy and Grover have two children, Kim and Kerrie, two grandsons, and two great grandsons. They all describe him as an amazing friend, father, and leader in our community.

He is the single most social man I know. A great storyteller, he always surrounded himself with his friends, and if he stood still for more than a few minutes, it was certain that he was frying grouper or mullet for a host of people. He loves people and they love him.

I have to say, Grover is also widely known as a huge and very inventive practical joker. He has been known to go to elaborate lengths to prank his friends.

He is also an amazing historian, especially knowledgeable about the minutiae of World War II. All of his friends, and I count myself lucky to be among those, revere our time that we spend with him. He is always entertaining, educational, and exceptional.

One of his daughters recently said to me: "Daddy is so social and he knows so many people that he could cause a traffic jam in Calhoun County." That is a lot of personality.

I spoke with him on the phone last week, after he received his diagnosis of a rapidly progressing terminal illness. After sharing his terminal diagnosis with me, he lightheartedly promised that, come what may, he would vote for me by absentee ballot next year.

Mr. Speaker, as the curtain draws closed on the life of my friend, I ask that we cast our attention on a man who lived an extraordinary life; a man who changed my community for the better; a man who cared for and supported many, many friends and family; a man who is, quite literally, larger than life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, who made me a better person, made my community a better place, Mr. Grover Davis.

Grover, we are praying for you, my friend, and for your family.

COAST GUARD REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise in support of the 42,000 men and women of the United States Coast Guard, the vital public safety, humanitarian, and national defense missions they perform, and this House's passage yesterday of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2019.

Coast Guard members are the first responders of America's oceans, waterways, and coastlines, conducting varied missions, often at a moment's notice, including search and rescue, securing our Nation's ports and waterways, and conducting law enforcement operations.

In my district in New Hampshire, we have been home to the Coast Guard since its founding, and the Granite State has relied on its work to keep us safe and strong for generations.

Last month I had the privilege of meeting with the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. As I met officers and crew members and toured their vessel, I was struck by the critical nature of their missions and the challenges they encounter in executing them.

Cutters like *Tahoma* patrol international waters and interdict drugs coming to America's shores. Their work saves lives and makes our communities safer. The Coast Guard has been doing this work despite being chronically underfunded and under-resourced.

The Coast Guard faces cartels and smugglers with staggering resources and advanced technology, and studies show that only 20 to 30 percent of the illegal drugs coming to our shores are interdicted.

According to the leaders of the Coast Guard, the most significant factor in its inability to meet drug interdiction targets has been insufficient inventory of vessels and aircraft to support operations.

At a time when our Nation is facing a profound crisis of addiction, we can and must do more to ensure that the Coast Guard is fully funded and has the resources it needs to keep our country safe.

That is why yesterday's action to pass the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2019 in a bipartisan way was so critical. This act supports the Coast Guard for the next 2 years with more than \$11 billion in discretionary funding each fiscal year, allowing them to address a backlog created by previous cuts.

An important bill I introduced was also included, the Fair and Equal Treatment of Women in the Coast Guard Act. This seeks to increase the recruitment and retention of women in the U.S. Coast Guard and improve gender diversity in this branch of the Armed Forces.

This comes in response to a study commissioned by the Coast Guard that identified barriers to attracting, recruiting, and retaining women, and recommended ways to improve gender diversity in the service. It is one important step to assure that the Coast Guard can continue to attract our Nation's best and brightest.

When we talk about keeping this Nation safe, let's remember the incredible work performed by our Coast Guard close to home and around the globe.

Let's show the Coast Guard Members that Congress has their backs, and let's continue to work collaboratively to ensure the Coast Guard has the proper support and policies in place to carry out its missions.

THE PLAGUE OF ROBOCALLS

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great uncertainty. I am uncertain that I can make it through this speech without being interrupted by a robocall, which has become a daily or, rather, sometimes an hourly nuisance.

For far too long now robocalls and spoofing have become a hindering plague upon the phones of millions of Americans. I hear from constituents on a daily basis about how their lives are habitually interrupted by phony phone calls, and how their cell phones, once seen as necessities, are now sources of frustration.

In many cases, these calls are dangerous and disguised, seeking to steal valuable information by tricking the

unsuspecting. In other cases, these aggravating calls disrupt important business, intrude on leisure activities, disturb family dinners and, even worse, are not restricted by the time of day.

□ 1030

These calls have been distracting, irritating, and deceiving Americans for long enough, and that is why I have introduced a bill called the Double the Enforcement and Fines of Everyone Associated with Terrible Robocalls Act, or, in short, the DEFEAT Robocalls Act. This bill ensures the harshest penalties for the individuals who are caught making illegal robocalls and spoofing calls. Simply said, the bill takes all the fines and penalties that those making robocalls currently face and doubles them.

It is time that we hold those who continue scamming Americans all across the country liable for their actions in a manner as serious as their crime.

I am encouraged to see Congress' recent legislative actions to prevent robocalls from being a daily hindrance, and I call on my colleagues to continue moving swiftly to send a bill to the President's desk so that we can restore Americans' trust when they answer their phones.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS KRAFT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Christopher Columbus Kraft, who served as NASA's first flight director and one of the agency's preeminent leaders.

Kraft passed away on July 22, 2019, at the impressive age of 95 years old and only 2 days after the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

It is impossible to overstate the vital role that Kraft played in the formative years of NASA.

After graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1944 with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering, Dr. Kraft started work at NASA's precursor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; and toward the onset of the space race in 1958, President Eisenhower established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and tasked Project Mercury with getting America into space and putting a man into orbit.

During this time, Kraft essentially created the entire concept of mission control and successfully directed all six crewed Mercury missions, including those that made Alan Shepard the first American in space and John Glenn the first American in orbit.

In Project Gemini, Kraft was promoted to the head of mission operations. Now in charge of a team of flight directors, he served "on console" during many historic moments, including Ed White's first spacewalk in Gemini 4.

Achieving all of this proved to the country and the rest of the world that America could succeed in space, and certainly set the stage for the Apollo missions to the Moon.

During Apollo, Chris Kraft soon rose to the position of deputy director of the Manned Spacecraft Center, now known as Johnson Space Center, which I proudly represent, and in 1972 was promoted to serve as the Center director.

Before Dr. Kraft's retirement in 1982, he contributed to a myriad of other projects, including Skylab and the first space shuttle missions.

While our space program continues to grow by leaps and bounds and our hands and hearts reach outward for Mars, we should remember the man on whose shoulders we stand and the great debt owed not only by NASA and our Nation, but also by our entire planet, to this incredible individual. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Kraft for his service to our country, "flight."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JAMES HUSTON MURPHY

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

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and service of Mr. James Huston Murphy.

James is a 94-year-old decorated World War II veteran as well as a native of the 11th Congressional District in Georgia.

Jim graduated from Lanier High School for Boys in 1942 and was an officer in the school's ROTC program, where he was preparing for a career as an officer in the U.S. military. The ROTC program is where Jim learned valuable lessons that would serve him down the road during the war.

In the fall of 1942, Jim enrolled at Georgia Tech, in Atlanta, with the hope of receiving an Army officer's commission through Tech's senior ROTC program. At that time, the United States was 4 years into World War II; and at the urging of Army recruiters, Jim and most of his fellow ROTC classmates enlisted in the Reserves because the military wanted them to complete college and officer training before going to Active Duty.

However, that idea was short-lived, because in March of 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called Jim's ROTC class and others across the Nation into immediate Active Duty. They were needed as ground troop replacements, and at that time, Jim was barely 18 years old.

In the spring of 1943, Jim reported to Fort McPherson in Atlanta, where he faced many challenges, but nothing more daunting than passing the military standard eye exam. And I know you are thinking: How difficult is an eye exam? Well, for Jim it was nearly impossible because Jim was blind in his left eye from birth.

This disability would disqualify Jim from serving in the military, but Jim was not going to let that stop him from serving his country. He believed that

service was his duty, and after playing a few hand tricks during the exam, he passed.

In March of 1944, Jim was entered to Camp Howze near Gainesville, Texas, to join the 103rd Infantry Division. The division was embroiled in intensive combat training, and since Jim had already received some artillery training, he was assigned to Battery C of the 928th Field Artillery Battalion, a 105-millimeter howitzer unit.

They trained long and hard, knowing they were headed for war. They learned the mission of artillery to support advancing infantry ground forces in combat and how to bracket your target area by trial and error. Jim's job was to be the forward observer radio operator when they were in combat and a jeep driver when the battery was moving forward.

Only a few months had passed since Jim was assigned to the 103rd Infantry Division before he was aboard the USS *Monticello* heading for the war.

The trip across the Atlantic was anything but luxurious. The military had packed the ship like "a can of sardines," as Jim put it; and the 2-week voyage was full of severe storms and indescribable seasickness, and a fear of being torpedoed always loomed in the back of their minds.

After arriving in France, it would not take long for Jim's combat unit to see their first action, and it occurred while they approached the Vosges Mountains in northeastern France. One of Jim's forward observer team was killed by rifle fire in the small town of Barr, which meant that Jim and the other member had to carry on the job a man short. For this, they were later awarded the Bronze Star.

Jim survived the record winter that enveloped northern France, Belgium, and Germany during the war, but he did not leave unscathed. On Christmas night 1944, after finishing a warm meal, Jim became very sick while single-handedly manning a forward outpost only 200 yards from German soldiers. The pain became so intense that he had to be transported to a field hospital, and doctors determined he had a bad case of appendicitis.

While Jim was lying in the hospital bed after appendix surgery, the Battle of the Bulge was just getting underway, and Jim realized his battery desperately need him. Going against doctors' orders, Jim put on his uniform, left the hospital, and hitched a ride back to his battery. The rest of Jim's unit was amazed he came back, and in the meantime, his battery commander had learned he was blind in one eye. Jim was nominated for the Silver Star, but Jim refused, as he felt any citation earned should go to the entire battery, not just him.

Germany surrendered in May of 1945, marking the end of the war effort in Europe, but the war was still raging in the Pacific, and that is where Jim was sent. However, before Jim got there, the atomic bombs were dropped on Hir-

oshima and Nagasaki, and World War II was soon over.

In Jim's own words: "My contributions to World War II, from enlistment to discharge, was 2 years, 11 months, and 14 days of my youth, including 9 months in combat. For this I am proud and have no regrets. I did not have to go to the war, but I believed it was my duty, and I wanted to go."

Jim will be the first to tell you his story is like so many others who fought in Europe during World War II, but in reading his memoirs, his selflessness, his duty to his country and fellow soldiers was quite exemplary.

Mr. Speaker, Georgia's 11th Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives thanks Jim. We thank him for his service to our Nation and his sacrifice for our freedoms.

WE CANNOT GIVE UP ON THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the first person born in Guatemala to serve in the United States House of Representatives.

I know the Guatemalan people have lived through many difficult times, and I know this because I was born there during the civil war. My parents made the heartbreaking decision to send me to live with my uncle in the United States when I was a little girl.

But through it all, the people of Guatemala have not given up. They have continued to work to make a better life for their children and for their children's children. They have worked for justice, for democracy, and they have won important victories.

In 1996, the efforts of the Guatemalan people ended the civil war; and in 2007, their search for justice led to the creation of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, an innovative institution whose mission was to help rid the country of corruption and organized crime. Working with brave Guatemalan judges and prosecutors, CICIG made real progress in improving Guatemala's justice system.

Then, in 2015, Guatemalans of all ages and political stripes took to the streets to call for the resignation of massively corrupt President Otto Perez Molina, and they won.

The long struggle of the Guatemalan people has led to a country that is safer and more just. The country's problems are far from resolved, but progress has been made.

Today Guatemala is at a crossroads. CICIG has, unfortunately, been forced out, and the country is in the middle of an election season, but many Guatemalans fear that the current government will be replaced by a new government that is just as corrupt as the current and the previous ones.

So many Guatemalans feel like they are alone, and some are losing hope,

but to the Guatemalan people I say this:

You are not alone, and you cannot give up. Many of us here in the United States Congress understand your challenges. We understand what you are facing, and many of us refuse to believe the lies peddled by the corrupt political class and their lobbyists. And many of us will continue to stand with you, and we will keep on fighting for your cause because we know that it is our cause, too. We know that a more just and democratic Guatemala is only in the best interests of ours, as well, and we know that you want for your children the same thing that we want for our American children.

I am confident that one day Guatemala will have a government that is worthy of its people, a government that works to advance justice, not to undermine and eliminate it; and one day, the United States Government will once again support the fight against corruption in Guatemala, and together, as partners, we will work toward a brighter and more prosperous and more democratic future.

So in closing I say to my colleagues, we cannot give up on the Guatemalan people. And to the Guatemalan people I say:

Do not give up on your future. Even in the darkness, we must look for signs of hope.

And in 1990, a brave anthropologist named Myrna Mack was killed by a military death squad for speaking out about the abuses against indigenous Guatemalans, but her sister Helen worked to bring justice in her case and helped lead the effort to create CICIG. And now Myrna Mack's daughter Lucrecia is going to be a member of the Guatemalan Congress.

So we must remember Pablo Neruda's words: "They can cut all the flowers, but they can't stop the spring."

A TOPIC THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a former FBI supervisory special agent and Federal prosecutor and as a strong advocate for civility to speak on a topic that must be addressed.

In our country, political discourse has disintegrated to a degree that is completely unacceptable. Political opponents label each other as enemies, and differences of opinion are met with slander and, oftentimes, with violence.

I have never remained silent on this issue. When White supremacists murdered a 32-year-old protestor in Charlottesville, Virginia, I expressed my outrage. When violent clashes erupted in Berkeley, California, in 2017, I also spoke out.

Recently, in Portland Oregon, a journalist was assaulted by Members of the

militant antifa movement. This journalist was covering an ongoing protest and suffered a brain hemorrhage, requiring overnight hospitalization.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, violence and hatred by any actor on any level is completely unacceptable. What is deeply troubling is antifa's history of provoking and stoking political violence, along with encouraging civil unrest, to dissuade those who do not share their beliefs from exercising their First Amendment rights.

In addition to the incident in Portland, antifa has tried to instigate riots in Washington, D.C., following President Trump's inauguration, and several antifa members in Philadelphia, right outside of my district, were arrested following an assault on Marine reservists. The charges they face include aggravated assault, ethnic intimidation, and conspiracy, among others.

Antifa has no desire to protest peacefully, no desire to learn from other people's experiences, and no desire to be receptive to fair and rational ideas outside of their own. They resort to violence and eschew peaceful demonstration at every turn.

I recently sent a letter to Attorney General Bill Barr, demanding the Department of Justice initiate proceedings to designate antifa as a domestic terrorist organization to protect the welfare of journalists and also the general public. I have asked my former colleagues at the FBI to do the same.

Political violence has no place in our society. In my career in law enforcement, I have seen firsthand how violence erodes civil society. We must not give a pass to any organization that perpetuates a vicious cycle of hatred and ignorance.

Antifa must be designated as the domestic terrorist organization that it is.

MAKE AUGUST 16 NATIONAL INDEPENDENT WORKER DAY

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, independent workers are vital to our country and the strong economy that we are enjoying today, with unemployment under 4 percent, wages rising, and Americans keeping more of their own money, thanks to tax reform.

These millions of workers are pursuing the American Dream of working for themselves, including contractors, consultants, freelancers, and small business owners. They embody the principles and values of our country's Declaration of Independence by truly representing what it means to be free. They are found across every profession, income level, industry, party, race, religion, gender, and geography.

That is why I am joining with the Association of Independent Workers in

calling for August 16 to be National Independent Worker Day.

This special recognition of independent workers' vital role in our Nation's economy is long overdue. As more and more Americans choose to take this career path, I will keep fighting to make sure Washington stays out of their way and allows them to innovate and succeed.

I am proud to support all the independent workers in my district and throughout this great Nation.

HONORING CONSERVATIVE WRITER RUSSELL
KIRK

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Dr. Russell Kirk, a political theorist, moralist, historian, and literary critic, in honor of a historical marker being placed at his beloved home in Mecosta in my district in Michigan next month.

For over 40 years, Dr. Kirk taught students about political theory, culture, and virtue. He also wrote more than 30 books. Today, his legacy lives on through the Russell Kirk Center under the gracious leadership of his wife, Annette.

Dr. Kirk is considered one of the preeminent thinkers of his time. His first book, "The Conservative Mind," has shaped the modern ideas of American conservatism.

Dr. Kirk found his true joy in addressing college audiences because he believed the key to the lasting success of conservative ideas rested on shaping the cultural and moral beliefs of the next generation.

In his books, articles, speeches, and interviews, Dr. Kirk's wisdom has shaped the thinking of generations of conservatives around the world.

His ideas have personally helped me in forming my own beliefs, and it is a privilege to pay special tribute to Dr. Kirk and his legacy today.

CELEBRATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Home Instead Senior Care.

Since 1994, when Lori and Paul Hogan founded Home Instead in Omaha, Nebraska, it has provided personalized care, support, and education to aging adults and their families.

Today, this network is the world's leading provider of in-home care services for seniors, with more than 1,100 independently owned and operated franchises that provide more than 75 million hours of care throughout the United States and 12 international markets.

Home Instead Senior Care offices employ 75,000 caregivers worldwide who provide basic support services that enable seniors to live safely and comfortably in their own homes for as long as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the dedicated men and women of Home Instead

Senior Care, who for 25 years have enhanced the lives of seniors and their caregivers in the United States and throughout the world.

HONORING SARATOGA'S MARYLOU WHITNEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marylou Whitney, the "Queen of Saratoga," who, sadly, passed away on July 19 at the age of 93.

Marylou embodied the spirit of a revitalized Saratoga. She was graceful, classic, sparkling, full of joy, and truly one of a kind. Most of all, she loved her community and gave so much of herself to it.

She had a passion for horse racing and was a fixture of the Saratoga Race Course. She hosted a yearly racing season ball for many decades, where proceeds benefited track workers and local organizations like Saratoga Hospital. She was active and involved in philanthropy until her last months.

Her generosity, energy, and compassion were unmatched. She was the founder of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and the National Museum of Dance.

Marylou often called Saratoga one of her favorite homes, and those of us in the community are unsurprised by this. It is a community like no other, and Marylou made it better for all of us. Her deep commitment will leave a mark on Saratoga for generations to come.

I want to express my sincere condolences to Marylou's husband, John Hendrickson, and her entire family.

I consider it an honor to have known Marylou Whitney and an honor to special her memory into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. She will be missed.

HONORING ADIRONDACK'S RANDY PRESTON

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Randy Preston, Wilmington Town supervisor, former chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors, former volunteer firefighter, former fire chief, and fierce advocate for Essex County and the Adirondack region.

After a long, courageous fight with an aggressive brain tumor, Randy, sadly, passed away on July 18. He was 60 years old.

He was a bipartisan leader on behalf of Essex County. He voted for the interests of the people, was beholden to no one, and let no one deter him. He was, undoubtedly, a champion for those he represented.

Randy's missions and advocacies for the Adirondack region were innumerable. He was passionate about lowering our tax burden and ensuring we had ample funding for lifesaving emergency medical services.

He was known not only for his staunch advocacy but for his sense of humor, his unapologetic convictions,

and his willingness to shoot straight and be honest with people, whether a Governor or a Congresswoman.

He was quick to tell me when he thought a policy was right for his community and just as quick to tell me when he thought a policy was wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I express my deepest sympathies to Randy's wife, Michelle, and his entire family. It is a sincere honor to enter Randy Preston's memory and achievements into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING MARIANO RIVERA, FIRST UNANIMOUS INDUCTEE INTO BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, the hallowed halls of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, welcomed six inductees last weekend.

In 80 years, baseball has honored 232 players as the best of the best. Only about 1 percent of the 19,500 who played the game are enshrined here.

As a proud New Yorker, I can say the hall includes 60 Yankees, and the bronze busts of Bronx Bomber behemoths include Ruth, Berra, Gehrig, Mantle, DiMaggio, Jackson, and more.

I rise today to honor Mariano Rivera, the first unanimous inductee into the Hall of Fame.

Mo, the Sandman, wore the Yankee pinstripes with honor, pride, humility, and dignity for 19 seasons. On the field, number 42 was a 13-time All-Star and won five World Series championships with the Yankees, including being named MVP in 1999.

Mo racked up a record 672 saves. His cutter is legendary. He amassed 1,173 strikeouts and had a postseason ERA of 0.7, allowing only 11 runs in 96 appearances, fewer postseason runs than the number of people who have walked the Moon.

Mo was the very definition of "automatic," as he was so often described.

Mariano is a man of faith and recognized the importance of family support through good times and struggles. He is a mentor, a teacher, and demonstrates quiet leadership that is far too scarce today.

Mr. Speaker, as a young boy in Panama, Mariano used a homemade glove of cardboard, tape, and netting. He had holes in his cleats when he tried out for the Yankees.

Through grit, hard work, and dogged determination, Mo achieved the very pinnacle of greatness in America's greatest game. He is the embodiment of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Mr. Sandman: Here's to you. I tip my cap.

CONGRATULATING SHAI McDONALD AND BRICE PATTERSON

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two young Montanans who are among the best in rodeo.

In this month's National High School Finals Rodeo in Wyoming, Montana was well represented with competitors from across the State. The National High School Finals Rodeo drew about 1,500 finalists from 43 States, Mexico, Canada, and Australia.

Two Montanans won buckles for placing in the top 10 in their event. Shai McDonald of Gardiner took second in barrel racing, and Brice Patterson of Bozeman took fourth in bareback riding.

Rodeo is a time-honored tradition in Montana, and it is part of our way of life.

The outstanding work ethic and dedication of these young athletes allows them to compete and succeed at this high level.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Shai and Brice on their accomplishments at the National High School Finals Rodeo.

CONGRATULATING ARCHBISHOP NIKITAS LULIAS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tarpon Springs native and devout University of Florida Gator and inspired Greek Orthodox theologian, Archbishop Nikitas Lulias, who will be enthroned this weekend in London as the Greek Orthodox archbishop of Great Britain under the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Archbishop Nikitas has had a blessed life, which started with the retrieval of the Gold Cross in Tarpon Springs for the 1974 celebration of the Epiphany. His proud parents, my great-aunt and great-uncle, Gus and Kally Lulias, knew at that moment that Nikitas was destined for greatness.

Archbishop Nikitas has had an extraordinary ecclesiastical career. His devotion to orthodoxy and to the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate make him a worthy choice as the archbishop of Great Britain.

I wish this son of Tarpon Springs, Florida, and my constituent and my cousin, a blessed ministry.

Axios, which means worthy.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SAFETY AIRCREWS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a group of heroes who work tirelessly to keep our country and communities safe.

Public safety aircrews ensure the safety of our domestic airspace, repeatedly operating in very hazardous conditions. They are also an essential form of support for first responders during disaster response and rescue missions.

Today, we honor the dedication and devotion that these public servants demonstrate and acknowledge those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

It is only right that a day is set aside to recognize the thousands of men and women who have served in this role. To that end, I am reintroducing a resolution today to recognize July 26 as National Public Safety Aviation Day.

□ 1100

RELEASE AUSTIN TICE

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, almost 7 years ago, Austin Tice, an American journalist, disappeared in Syria. Since the day he vanished, his parents, family, friends, and supporters have tirelessly worked to ensure that no stone is left unturned and no avenue ignored in a global campaign to see Austin returned home safely.

As we approach the end of the seventh year of Austin's captivity, we request that whomever continues to hold Austin release him immediately so that he can return to his family and his friends.

We also ask for the assistance of the Government of Syria. I ask that they do whatever they can to help facilitate Austin's release.

There are things that transcend politics and diplomacy, bridge cultural divides, and need no translation across different languages. Those are things like love and hope, represented by a mother and a father who wake up each day with the unshakable faith in their son and the belief that today could be the day when they get the chance to hug him again.

We ask for your help, without the assignment of blame or malice to anyone, so that this year is the last that Austin remains so far from home and from family.

RESTORE OUR PARKS

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Restore Our Parks Act, and I thank Mr. BISHOP for his leadership and partnership on this bill.

I was lucky enough to grow up near one of the crown jewels of our national park system, the Olympic National Park, right in my backyard in the Pacific Northwest. I have seen firsthand how our public lands have captivated both visitors and residents alike and served as key economic drivers for our local communities.

I think there is little doubt that our national parks are some of America's greatest natural and cultural treasures. I am proud that my home State boasts not only Olympic National Park, but also Mount Rainier National Park and North Cascades National Park, true gems of the national park system.

Unfortunately, these crown jewels are getting a bit rusty, and they require our attention to return them to glory. If you have visited one of our parks lately, you will no doubt have noticed that they are facing a good problem.

In 2017, Washington State had a record 8.45 million park visitors, including families, campers, and adventurers, who came to explore our iconic landscapes. While they were there, these visitors spent more than \$500 million, supported more than 6,600 jobs,

and created nearly \$700 million in economic impact.

While this is undeniably great news for Washington's growing outdoor economy, the rise in visitation has also strained our park resources, like roads, interpretive centers, campsites, and trails, that visitors rely on to access and truly experience our parks. If we as a country don't start investing in our parks, I believe we risk loving them to death.

The National Park Service manages more than 400 sites across the country and is facing a nearly \$12 billion backlog in necessary repairs. In Washington State alone, our national parks suffer from nearly \$400 million in deferred repairs needed to restore historical structures, fix eroding trails, fix roads, and update unsafe electrical and drinking water systems.

This significant maintenance backlog threatens the health, accessibility, and safety of our parks, their visitors, and the communities that depend on them. That is why we need to take this opportunity to build on recent successes of investing in our public lands and turn our attention to passing the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act.

Passing this legislation sponsored by my good friend from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) will establish a long-term investment in our parks that will create jobs and boost economies throughout Washington State and across this country. An analysis commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts shows that investing in the maintenance of our national parks could create or support more than 3,800 new jobs in Washington State alone and 100,000 jobs across the country.

Now, these days, Congress can hardly agree on what day it is or what color the sky is; but, with 300 Members of the House of Representatives cosponsoring this bill and 40 Members of the Senate, it is crystal clear that this is an area that we might actually see some progress. My hope is that we can get folks behind this and get this done.

RESTORE OUR PARKS

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KILMER for leading off on this particular issue and all the work that he has been doing on this particular concept. It is important.

I am very happy that this bill has 300 cosponsors now here in the House. That is the largest number of cosponsors who have ever supported a bill coming from the Natural Resources Committee. I think there are only 10 other bills that have more cosponsors in the House. It passed our committee on a 36-2 vote and is now awaiting the chance of being heard here on the House floor.

There is a companion bill in the Senate, not quite as good as our ours, that

already has one-third of the Senate as cosponsors of that.

This is an idea whose time has actually come. We talk about the maintenance backlog of our national parks and all of our public lands, including fish and wildlife land, BLM land, and also our national forests.

Especially as we now enter August, when there will be the largest participation of Americans going out to visit these parks and public lands, it is important that their experience be a positive one and not be stopped by broken roads, lack of sewers, lack of facilities, or lack of any kind of access that they may need. That is why it is so significant.

We have almost around \$17 billion of maintenance backlog only in our parks. If you add up the maintenance backlog we have on all other public lands, including our national forests, it is \$30 billion that we would need to spend just to get them to standard—not to do any kind of really human moving it forward, but just to get them to where they are workable, livable, and enjoyable.

That kind of backlog did not take place overnight. There are a lot of people who are simply looking at saying: Well, let's just try and use the same old stuff we have been using for a long time. We will appropriate more money.

That doesn't work. We have developed a significant problem that needs a significant new solution. This solution is one that was coming out of, actually, the administration that has the support of over two-thirds of the House and that has the support of one-third of the Senate. This is one of those things which, all of a sudden, this is a cool idea to solve an existing problem that we have ignored for a number of years.

The goal of this is to take excess—and that is the key word—royalties that are coming from energy production on all Federal lands, all kinds of energy production, whether it is traditional, renewable, onshore, or offshore, any kind of royalties coming into the Federal Government from those. If there is an excess, which means we take the commitments we have already to things like GOMESA and LWCF, and after those are funded, then if there is excess, that excess now goes into a fund to start working at these kinds of problems, to solve our problems with public lands. The restoration fund only receives the amounts after all these other programs have received that.

If there is no excess in the royalties—I clearly doubt that will happen, but if there is no excess in the royalties, then there is no money that goes into this program.

Some people have said this is mandatory spending. No, it is not.

Mandatory spending, by definition, means you have to spend the money whether it appears or not; you have to find it from somewhere else. This is one of those programs that said, if there is excess, then the first billion of this money will go to fund our national

parks, our public lands. If there is no excess, then you don't have to find it anywhere else because there will be no money that goes to that.

This is not mandatory in any way.

Also, some people are saying, well, maybe there should be an offset for this new program. This is really not a new program. The parks and public lands exist. The responsibility to make sure that they are viable, they are paid, and they are sustainable already exists. This is an existing program.

We are not taking anything from any other program for this. We are simply basing it on what is already our existing responsibility.

If you were to try and go through a traditional approach of trying to appropriate more money through our budgeting process, that wouldn't have to have an offset. What we are talking about here is existing programs, existing needs, and existing responsibilities.

We have spent a whole lot of time buying up land. The Federal Government owns one-third of America already. It is easy to buy up more property. It is easy to establish a park because that sounds really cool. You get your name on it, and it gives you a legacy. The hard part is maintaining that land.

And for heaven's sake, if we are going to take the responsibility and build a legacy, to actually buy something and create something, we have to take the responsibility of maintaining it, and this is exactly what we are talking about.

I am so proud that there are so many Republicans and so many Democrats who have realized this is our obligation, this is our responsibility, and we have to do it.

This bill is extremely important because it is a proper approach to solving an existing problem. I encourage the leaders of this House to bring it to the floor soon so it can be debated and heard.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Gershon Avtzon, Yeshivas Lubavitch Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, master of the universe, I invoke Your blessing today on the Members of this honorable institu-

tion, the House of Representatives of the United States of America. May they humbly serve their constituencies, aware that creating just legislation is one of the seven laws that You, almighty God, gave all humanity through Noah, as detailed in Genesis.

Almighty God, as a descendant of Chassidic Jews who fled the Stalinist regime that persecuted religious observance, I am especially grateful and blessed to be in America, the nation called the "country of kindness" by the great spiritual leader of our generation, the Lubavitcher Rebbe Melech HaMoshiach, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. We thank you for the freedom we have here to practice our faith, and we pray for those who still suffer persecution around the world.

While legislating, by definition, includes differences of opinion and rigorous debate, I pray that we, nevertheless, anticipate our shared bright future in the time of redemption and, thus, remain "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. PAYNE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING RABBI GERSHON AVTZON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the rabbi for coming to the Capitol today to share with us a time in prayer, a time when we often need it.

America has been through many battles. We have many debates. But we always come out strong, and we come out together, at the end of the day.

I thank the rabbi for his kind prayer and thoughtfulness as we proceed forward as a Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further re-

quests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE PAYNE FELLOWSHIP

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Donald M. Payne, Sr., International Development Graduate Fellowship Program.

My father, the late Donald M. Payne, was committed to human rights at home, in Africa, and around the world. I am honored by the Payne Fellows' commitment to my father's legacy, and I have developed a deep appreciation for everything they have done to uplift humanity.

I am proud that the fellowship named for my father helps talented young people enter the USAID Foreign Service program. Today, the Payne Fellows are leading the charge on some of the greatest global challenges of our time.

Since its inception in 2013, the program has trained 50 talented young individuals who come from diverse backgrounds to enrich and enhance the USAID Foreign Service.

This year, I hosted one of the Payne Fellows in my office. Her name is Meklit Gebbru.

Meklit's intellect, work ethic, humor, and, most of all, her positive attitude will truly be missed in my office. The day after her arrival, she was writing questions for me to use in Committee on Homeland Security subcommittee hearings.

Again, I thank the USAID and the Payne Fellows for their commitment to providing humanitarian efforts while in support of America's foreign policy.

REMEMBERING THE CARLTON COMPLEX FIRE

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 5 years since the largest single wildfire in Washington State history.

The Carlton Complex fire raged through north-central Washington, burning more than a quarter of a million acres and leaving more than 500 homes and structures destroyed in its path. Still today, the communities, small businesses, and families in Okanogan County continue to rebuild and work to address the long-term consequences of this disaster.

While the devastation was heart-breaking, what we saw on the ground was a testament to the resilience and spirit of Washingtonians, as well as the generosity and bravery of those from across the region and the Nation who came to north-central Washington's aid.

At the height of the fire, in those frightening days of late July 2014, more

than 2,800 firefighters from across the country poured in to assist the fire-fight. Today, I rise to recognize and remember the heroic efforts of those thousands of firefighters, first responders, and volunteers who worked tirelessly and at great personal risk.

**FIGHT AGAINST ELIMINATING
BROAD-BASED CATEGORICAL
ELIGIBILITY**

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am here this afternoon to raise strong concerns about a rule that the Trump administration recently announced on eliminating broad-based categorical eligibility.

If implemented, this rule will cut 3 million people off of SNAP, 13 percent of whom are elderly and 7 percent of whom are children. In addition, 500,000 kids will lose access to free school meals.

I will put it simply: This will increase food insecurity and hurt working families.

President Trump wants to, literally, take the food off the table of working families so that he can give tax breaks to the well-off and the well-connected.

This proposed rule is against the will of Congress. Last year, we worked on a bipartisan farm bill, and despite some discussion on this, Congress agreed to let States maintain their flexibility to accommodate low-income households.

That is why I encourage my colleagues in the House and Senate to join me and fight every battle this administration wages against those who struggle.

Let us demand an end to this President's cruelty, and let us work to end hunger now.

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

**HONORING THE LIFE OF ROY
BATES**

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a very special man and my good friend, Roy Bates of Winchester, Kentucky.

Mr. Bates, a true patriot, passed away on July 4, 2019, on Independence Day, appropriately.

Roy Bates was quite eager to serve his country and attempted unsuccessfully to enlist in the Navy and the Army when he was not yet of legal age. In 1950, when he was 18 years old, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and went to Parris Island for training.

He was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Division. He was soon sent to Korea to join his fellow marines.

On September 1, 1951, just 3 days before his 19th birthday, Mr. Bates was on patrol when his group was ambushed. They were taking heavy fire. Crawling on his belly, trying to reach cover, he heard the dreaded click of a land mine beneath him. His left leg was blown away, and his right leg sustained numerous wounds.

Severely wounded, he was carried off the field by two fellow marines. One of those who carried him off was killed in action a few days later. Many years later, Mr. Bates was reunited with Royce Henry, the other marine who saved him.

Mr. Bates spent 7 years in and out of hospitals and had 32 surgeries. He received a Purple Heart as well as numerous other medals.

He married his wife, Betty, and they had four children.

Mr. Bates eventually returned home to Winchester, where he always cherished a deep love for his country and for the Marine Corps.

He was a well-respected member of his community who exemplified good character and a positive attitude all of his life.

Mr. Bates and his fellow veterans are true heroes. He willingly served to protect and defend the freedoms that we enjoy today. He faced life with unwavering faith in God and love of country.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to honor the life of Mr. Roy Bates before the United States Congress.

**IT IS TIME FOR SENATE TO ACT
ON IMMIGRATION**

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the House for passing H.R. 3239 to provide humanitarian standards for migrants and refugees in Customs and Border Protection custody at our border.

Having visited the U.S.-Mexico border now twice in the past 12 months, I know how desperately this bill was needed.

We have good news and bad news. The good news is that the children, the young children, are no longer being separated from their biological parents, although we did see 310 children separated from aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

But the worst news was the migrants who we saw held in overcrowded conditions for up to 40 to 60 days without any access to basic services, like a hot meal or a shower or being able to brush their teeth.

These are inhumane conditions and a human rights violation.

That is why I was proud to cosponsor the bill sponsored by Dr. RAUL RUIZ to enact critical safety, nutrition, and hygiene standards for migrants in custody. I was pleased that the House accepted my amendments to protect women from sexual assault at the border.

**HONORING LABOR LEADER
HECTOR FIGUEROA**

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Hector Figueroa, a champion for workers, a New Yorker, and proud Puerto Rican, who, sadly, passed last week.

While he was relentless in advocating for members of his union, SEIU 32BJ, he was also on the front lines helping taxi drivers, fast food employees, and workers in every sector. To him, anyone who was oppressed was an ally, and he was ready to join them in common cause.

Most recently, he was central to building support for relief in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.

His belief that everyone deserves respect extended beyond his work as a labor leader. Hector treated everyone, from the youngest organizers to the most powerful elected officials, with genuine kindness.

Just last week, this House voted to raise the Federal minimum wage. I like to think, wherever he is, that this will bring a smile to Hector's face.

We will honor his memory by advancing the causes that inspired him.

Hector always said, "We'll keep organizing."

Yes, my friend, we will.

**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 3877, BIPARTISAN BUDGET
ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR
CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 549,
VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019;
AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT
OF CLAUSE 6(A) OF RULE XIII
WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION
OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS
REPORTED FROM THE
COMMITTEE ON RULES**

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 519 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 519

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3877) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 549) to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to

be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-28 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 30 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of July 26, 2019.

□ 1215

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman 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. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee met last night and reported a rule, House Resolution 519, providing for consideration of H.R. 3877, which is the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, and provides for one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019, also under a closed rule. The rule provides 30 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Finally, the rule provides same-day authority through the legislative day of tomorrow, Friday, July 26, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased we are here today to bring up two important bipartisan pieces of legislation. Let me start with H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019.

For months, House Democrats have negotiated with the White House and the Senate in order to agree on budget

levels for fiscal year 2020 so Congress can complete all the appropriations bills and avoid another governmental shutdown like we saw at the beginning of this year.

Despite resistance from my friends on the Republican side of the aisle, the House is well underway with the appropriations process. We have passed 10 of the 12 appropriations bills, which fund nearly 96 percent of the Federal Government.

Unfortunately, the Senate has yet to take up any of the 12 appropriations bills and, in fact, none of the bills have even been marked up by the Senate.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 will set overall budget levels to avoid drastic cuts next year and allow House and Senate appropriators to negotiate final bills to avoid a shutdown and provide certainty to Americans and all the Federal employees who work for them.

Importantly, this bill will also raise the debt ceiling for the next 2 years. Put simply, we cannot put in jeopardy the full faith and credit of the United States of America. This bill rightfully provides the Treasury Department the ability to continue paying our bills and honor the commitments the U.S. has already made.

While Members on both sides of the aisle may not like everything in this deal, it is a compromise which supports critical investments for all Americans and, I believe, sets us on a strong path forward this fiscal year.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019. This bipartisan bill was debated on Tuesday under suspension of the rules, and I was disappointed more of my friends from the other side of the aisle didn't join every Democrat, 37 Republicans, and 1 Independent, to help get to the two-thirds vote required under suspension.

Venezuela is currently in crisis. Their democratic institutions have been corrupted under the Maduro regime and, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency and the International Organization for Migration, more than 4 million Venezuelans have fled the country.

I want to applaud the work of Representatives DARREN SOTO, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, and my friend, DONNA SHALALA, from the Rules Committee, for their work to advance this bill to provide temporary protected status for Venezuelan refugees already in the United States. That is why I am glad we have included this bill in the rule today, to ensure this bill passes the House as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, overall, this rule provides for consideration of two very important measures we need to get done before the upcoming district work period. I urge all my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bills.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERL-

MUTTER) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today on two items, both of which are actually bipartisan ideas. And though this has been an eventful week and month at the Rules Committee, I am pleased that we are ending on such a high note before we return to our districts.

Of course, this rule is not all sunshine and roses. It does add same-day authority for any measure through tomorrow. My good friend, Chairman MCGOVERN, had a term for this procedure in the last Congress. He called it "martial law."

I would remind my friends that pushing through bills on short notice, at the last minute, and using the martial law procedure is a recipe for potential disaster, and certainly is no way to make good law. It is also contrary to the commitment the Democrats made, upon taking the majority, to provide 72 hours notice before bringing a bill to the floor for a vote; a rule they already are violating with one of the measures today, albeit only by a matter of hours.

I would also remind my friends that with consideration of the budget agreement today, there is absolutely no other legislation that is so critical and that must be done this week to justify needing this extraordinary procedure.

The only thing my friends would use this martial law for is to advance highly-partisan messaging bills in order to appease some faction or other in their caucus ahead of the recess. That is a waste of the committee's time and a waste of the House's time. And I assure you, you will have plenty of time for these types of bills in the fall.

On a much more positive note, though, as I said at the start of my remarks, the two bills covered by this rule today are actually bipartisan, and we should all be encouraged by that.

One bill, H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019, was brought up on the floor on suspension on Tuesday. It, unfortunately, failed to reach the required two-thirds threshold needed for passage under suspension of the rules. But I have every confidence that it will easily pass the House later today under this rule; and I certainly look forward to supporting it with my friends on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of people talk about the need for bipartisanship around here, but in our second bill for today, we have an excellent example of what the word actually means. H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, is as advertised. It is a bipartisan bill that sets budgetary needs for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. It suspends the debt limit until July 31 of 2021 to protect the full faith and credit of the Nation. And it avoids devastating sequestration cuts.

I said a moment ago that this is an excellent example of what bipartisanship means, and I truly believe that to be the case. This is a bill that was negotiated between the President of the United States and the leaders of both

parties in both Houses of Congress, resulting in the kind of bipartisan, bicameral budget deal in which all Members can have confidence.

Is this bill a perfect one? No, of course not. No bill ever is. I, myself, would have preferred that this bill address entitlement reform and deficit reduction, and I am certain that some of my friends on the other side of the aisle would have preferred a lower defense spending number. Some of my friends on my side of the aisle would have preferred a higher defense spending number.

But even when we both agree that this bill isn't perfect, it is still a good deal for the American people.

I think this bill achieves four bipartisan goals that I would like to highlight.

First, with the passage of this bill, we would avoid the horrific consequences of defaulting on our national debt, which would lead to an economic chaos the likes of which none of us should ever wish to see.

Second, in setting new budgetary levels, we will avoid the automatic and devastating sequestration cuts that would have taken effect at the beginning of October of this year.

Third, it allows us to move forward with clarity on the appropriations process for the coming fiscal year and probably for the fiscal year after that.

And fourth, it allows us to resume the process of rebuilding our military after years of underfunding left it with a severe readiness crisis.

When the Commander in Chief tells us that he needs something to defend America, there can only be one answer, and that answer is yes.

Mr. Speaker, I think every Member of the House can be proud of the work done by the leaders of both parties to get us to this point. All five of the people in question, the President, the Speaker, the House Republican Leader, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader, negotiated in good faith and produced a compromise bill that all five of them stand behind.

In order to get there, every one of them had to give up some things. That is what it takes to make a compromise, and this is what makes this bipartisan bill possible.

I know there are Members of this House who are disappointed with this bill. I, too, as I mentioned earlier, am not completely satisfied with it. But I trust my leaders to negotiate on our behalf. And when they came back with this deal, I trusted that this was the best compromise they could reach. Everybody had to give something to get something, and I trust that the leaders of my party achieved as much as they could in the course of the negotiation.

The same should hold for my friends across the aisle with their leaders of their party. Working together, all five did exactly what leaders are supposed to do; they led and, in doing so, came to the best deal possible, not for each party, but for the whole Nation.

Now it is up to the Members of the House to say yes and move forward with the passage of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. COLE for his comments, particularly about the Venezuelan TPS legislation, as well as the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. Truly, these are two bills that are supported by both sides of the aisle. Neither one is exactly perfect, but they are both good, and that is the kind of legislation we need to get through this body to the Senate and to the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA), my good friend.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule and H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019, this is lifesaving, bipartisan legislation to designate TPS for Venezuelans, and I appreciate the generous remarks of Ranking Member COLE.

The socialist, narco regimes of Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro have plunged Venezuela into catastrophe. Venezuela was once a thriving democracy. Now the economy, the health sector, the education system, and virtually every democratic institution is in ruins. The Venezuelan economy has completely collapsed, and the inflation is expected to reach 10 million percent this year.

More than 4 million refugees have fled the continuous worsening conditions in Venezuelan. They have fled to Colombia, to Brazil, to Peru, to so many countries, and they have come to the United States, following the footsteps of millions of refugees before them; those who have helped make this the greatest country on Earth.

□ 1230

They have come to our shores in search of the freedom, democracy, and security that the Maduro regime has stolen from them, and so many Venezuelans have come to south Florida where they have contributed so much to our diverse community.

In my district, there are approximately 17,000 Venezuelan-born residents, so this is personal for us. These are our neighbors, our friends, our students, and our teachers. My constituents cannot safely return.

As the vote on Tuesday demonstrated, we are ready to take legislative action to allow Venezuelans to apply for temporary protective status. TPS has bipartisan support in the House and in the Senate, but now it is time for the Senate to take this bill up.

Our hope is that passage of this bill in our House will light the fire under the Senate. Bipartisan TPS legislation has passed through the Senate committees. Now more than ever, it is time for them to take it up and to get TPS signed into law.

TPS is a fundamental, literally, life-saving component to our approach to the crisis in Venezuela, but TPS alone won't solve the crisis. The United States and the international community must continue to put pressure on the regime to facilitate a peaceful change in leadership. We must expose the corrupt networks that prop up the Maduro government and meet the urgent basic needs of the poor, the hungry, and the sick.

Because our ultimate goal is to secure a stable and peaceful transition of power for the Venezuelan people, I want to thank my Florida colleagues, including lead sponsors Mr. SOTO and Mr. DIAZ-BALART, as well as DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL and also our Puerto Rican colleague, JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. I also want to thank Chairman MCGOVERN for his work to help make sure this bill was included in this rule.

Viva Venezuela.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by doing something unusual in a rules debate. I want to agree with everything my good friend from Florida had to say. I am very pleased with her work and my colleague Mr. DIAZ-BALART's work on this legislation, as well as the other Members that she mentioned.

This is an important bill for us to pass for exactly the reasons my friend laid out. The reality is we have an unfolding political crisis in Venezuela, and we have people at fear for their life and, frankly, leaving a collapsing economy.

This country ought to be a refuge for people in those kinds of circumstances, so I share my friend's hope that we get this done here and then we get action in the United States Senate.

I do want to advise the Chair, Mr. Speaker, that, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to immediately bring up H.R. 336, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019, with an amendment that will make it identical to S. 1, which passed the Senate in a bipartisan vote of 77-23 earlier this year.

This bill includes many critical provisions, but the most important section of this bill is the Combating BDS Act of 2019, which will allow a State or local government to adopt measures to divest assets from entities using boycotts, divestments, or sanctions to influence Israel's policies.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House passed H. Res. 246, a nonbinding resolution opposing the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement; and while I appreciate the House's action in passing that resolution, we can do better in opposing this heinous practice than simply passing a nonbinding resolution. Actions speak louder than words. We cannot just say we believe in something. We must do something.

H.R. 336 would do something. It would allow a State or local government to stand with us in defense of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with the 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), my good friend, for further explanation of this amendment.

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for yielding.

H.R. 336, the Strengthening America's Security Act in the Middle East Act, is the House companion to S. 1. This bill was so important that the United States Senate made it their top legislative priority and passed it with overwhelming bipartisan support.

H.R. 336, a bill introduced by Ranking Member MCCAUL, combines four various policy initiatives that deal with the United States-Israel relationship. This legislation authorizes assistance in weapons transfers to Israel; extends defense cooperation with Jordan; establishes additional sanctions on individuals supporting the Syrian Government; and, most importantly, allows States to divest from entities that are boycotting Israel.

Just this week, the House passed, with bipartisan support, a resolution opposing the anti-Israel, anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, also known as BDS. That resolution was a great stepping stone, but we need to do more. Now we must pass legislation with some teeth.

There is no doubt that Israel is our greatest ally in the Middle East. It is the only Jewish state. Since her birth 71 years ago, the U.S.-Israel relationship has continued to grow stronger as we find new means for cooperation and ensure the safety of her and her people.

It is time for the Democrat leadership to bring this crucial bill to the House floor for a vote. It is vital for all of us to come together and show our support for Israel. It is not solely Republican and not solely Democrat. We must continue to come together as a unified body to stamp out anti-Semitism and hate towards the only Jewish state, Israel.

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

I would just say to my friend, Mr. KUSTOFF, he and I served together on Financial Services, and there is agreement here. In fact, this resolution that he described as a great stepping stone, we just took and passed the resolution 2 days ago with 398 "aye" votes in favor of that.

Today, though, we are here to focus on two other things, both of which are

substantial measures in and of themselves, and we can look forward to other measures involving the anti-BDS movement or whatever we may be, but to deal with anti-Semitism.

But today we are here, really, to applaud a deal that was cut among all of our leaders, Democrats and Republicans, that eliminates drastic cuts, approves funding, or funding levels, for the next year to 2 years, and allows America to move forward without the real potential of shutdown like we had for 35 days when the White House, earlier in this year, refused to deal on certain subjects and appropriations. Thankfully, we got through that.

I think, at this point, cooler heads have prevailed, and we are moving forward on the Bipartisan Budget Act; and then, as Ms. SHALALA said, we are dealing with, really, a humanitarian crisis that exists in Venezuela, at this point, to provide temporary protected status to those who fled their country, who are in America, many of whom are in Florida, to provide them some protection while they are here and to make sure that they can comfortably, if you will, remain here and not fear that they are going to have to be deported back to Venezuela, where we know there is a lot of strife and danger.

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

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

I agree with my friend very much. These two pieces of legislation are excellent, and they are must pass, and I look forward with working with him on that.

But this is such an extraordinary outbreak of bipartisanship, I think we should go for broke and bring up this other legislation as well, which is equally bipartisan, as my friend says. I don't want to waste this magic moment, Mr. Speaker. We don't get many of them around here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), my good friend.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so the House may take up H.R. 336, a bipartisan legislative package that would help fight back against the BDS movement, protect U.S. security in the Middle East by strengthening our alliances with Israel and Jordan, and sanction nefarious actors like Assad.

The Senate version of this bill, S. 1, passed with an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 77-23. Surprisingly, the major point of contention for this package is the Combating BDS Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill that garnered over 100 cosponsors last Congress and would help combat the BDS movement.

It is okay to have reasonable, legitimate concerns with any government in the world, including our own, but this hate-filled movement is not all about affirming the rights of Palestinians, as some suggest. It is about delegitimizing Israel by turning it into

a pariah state cut off from all trade, tourism, military, diplomatic, and cultural ties with the rest of the world.

BDS, whose founder was blatantly anti-Semitic, amounts to a declaration of economic war against Israel, with a goal of destroying it as the only Jewish state on Earth.

I hear of college students all across our entire country who share very personal testimonials of how they are being targeted by blatant anti-Semitism in the name of BDS.

Thankfully, this week, the House passed H. Res. 246, a resolution to forcefully condemn the BDS movement.

Making a strong statement is great and should be celebrated, but we should wake up the next morning asking ourselves, challenging each other to what we can do about it.

S. 1 has already passed the Senate, but it is not being brought up in this House, despite nearly 200 Members signing the discharge petition and over 100 cosponsors last Congress.

This bill does not impede the right of any individual American to boycott or criticize Israel, as some suggest. Instead, H.R. 336 would combat the BDS movement by simply allowing State and local governments to have the right to counter the BDS movement by ending contracts with companies that boycott Israel, if they so choose, while protecting U.S. security in the Middle East.

There were 350 cosponsors on the statement that was made earlier this week. There were nearly 400 votes on the House floor. Republicans and Democrats worked together through a process, from drafting the legislation to getting the bill marked up at committee, to passing on the House floor, and we should celebrate making a great statement.

Now we should be passing a bill with teeth. We could do it right now. If this bill gets added to the voting before we leave here this week, I guarantee it passes.

So not only did we, earlier this week, make a strong statement to combat the anti-Israel, anti-Semitic BDS movement, but we woke up the next day motivated to actually challenge ourselves to do something about it, and we got it done.

The one thing that is concerning is that we keep asking for a vote on H.R. 336, and we are not getting an answer in response as to why it is not coming up for a vote or when it will come up for a vote. I would challenge anyone who has an answer to this question to please let us know, because we don't know what else to do other than bringing up today's proposal, for example.

But if this is something that has already passed the Senate with a strong bipartisan majority, it is the right thing to do. We have almost unanimously condemned the BDS movement, and we are here on the House floor together with a bill that would pass, strongly?

Let's get it done. Let's get it done right now. There are a lot of people who would celebrate that big win.

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

I just want to continue to focus on what is before us today, and what is before us today is dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and dealing with the budget of the United States of America, two accomplishments, both bipartisan, that I think will really assist and protect so many people who fled Venezuela to America, and particularly to Florida, but also provides for funding caps that help us with veterans, with infrastructure, with foreign affairs across the board, with our military.

The President tweeted the other day that the Bipartisan Budget Act was a real accomplishment for veterans and our military, and I agree.

□ 1245

I am sorry that Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. COLE would like to bring up something else.

In fact, I was fortunate enough to be in the chair when the BDS bill and the resolution, H. Res. 246, I think it was, was being debated and passed by an overwhelming majority and it really was a huge accomplishment, which I am afraid the arguments that the gentleman is making now minimize what was accomplished just 2 days ago.

I think we need to remain focused on these major pieces of legislation that will guide America for the next 2 years and will protect Venezuelans who fled their country for at least 18 months.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), my good friend.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman who just spoke for expressing his gratitude and his celebration for what passed earlier this week and I appreciate his support for what passed earlier this week.

I would actually suggest that doing something about that statement that we made is not minimizing the statement that we made, it is actually maximizing the statement that we made.

We are minimizing the statement that we made if we wake up the next day and decide that we are not going to do anything about it by passing a bill with teeth.

Again, I would ask anyone who has an answer to this question, when can we have a vote on S. 1 and H.R. 336? It is a simple question. I don't have the answer to it, but if anyone can answer that for us, it would really help those who genuinely, sincerely, passionately believe in this legislation.

I know from my conversations with colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle, I know of a number of colleagues who would enthusiastically vote for S. 1/H.R. 336. And I know of friends, col-

leagues on the other side of the aisle who have asked for a vote on S. 1/H.R. 336.

Mr. Speaker, now would be a good opportunity, I don't want to put the gentleman on the spot, but if anybody can answer that question, we are very interested in having a vote scheduled on this bill.

Let's maximize the statement that we made by adding that. It will pass and it will go to the President and it will be signed into law, and we will celebrate not only a strong statement made, but maximizing that strong statement made by doing something about it and passing a bill with teeth.

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

I want to begin by thanking my colleague for a good debate and, frankly, for both of us having the enjoyable and unusual position of being in favor of both the pieces of legislation that are dealt with in the rule.

I want to go back and talk, just briefly, about the Venezuela TPS legislation that our good friend and our fellow Rules Committee member, Ms. SHALALA, has. That is an important piece of legislation. That is an important statement of American principles. I think it is an important institutional moment for us in the House, because we are passing something jointly to try and get the other body to do something jointly as well, because I am quite convinced if that got to the floor, it would pass in a very substantial bipartisan way. I am glad to work with my friends to achieve this.

I suppose I am even more pleased about the bipartisan Budget Act. I want to again congratulate the five leaders on both sides of the aisle who actually got this done. The President of the United States sat down and negotiated this.

We have a lot of people on my side of the aisle that are big supporters of the President of the United States. I hope they show that support today by actually voting for the deal that he negotiated and has tweeted out that he supports.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate in our own Chamber the Speaker and the Republican leader, Ms. PELOSI and Mr. MCCARTHY, for also participating in that and working together.

I know each one of them had to go back to their caucuses and probably deliver some news that people in those caucuses did not want to hear. That is certainly true on our side of the aisle. I know it is true on the gentleman's side of the aisle as well.

That is what leaders do. They come to agreements and they go back, and they explain to their supporters, "Hey, I couldn't get you everything you wanted, even though I wanted those things, too," but every now and then you need to sit down and put what is good for the American people first.

We all know that a catastrophic debt ceiling crisis and default, what that would do to our economy, how many people that would put out of work.

We all know what having an agreed-upon deal in terms of stability going forward for 2 years means for the American military, but for every other agency of government as well. These are huge, huge wins even if there was some sacrifice.

Now, would I like to do some more on deficit reduction and entitlement reform? I absolutely would. We will continue to work on that.

But any time I can come to an agreement that saves the economy, that provides government stability, that gives our military the ability to plan and to rebuild itself over a 2-year period, and that the Commander in Chief is asking me to do, I am going to vote for that every single time.

I am very proud to be voting for it with my friends on the other side of the aisle, who also, again, had objectives in this that they weren't able to reach.

Finally, I would be remiss—I do this as seldom as possible—but I will praise the United States Senate, because the majority leader and the minority leader were also indispensable in getting this done, and in many ways probably came to an agreement between themselves faster even than the other parties involved. But at the end of the day, again, both of those leaders, the majority leader and the minority leader in the Senate, had to go back and tell their caucuses, "Look, this is the best deal I can get. I can't get everything I want. We are not going to achieve everything we would like to achieve."

Again, I respect my colleagues who look at the deal and say, "That is not good enough." That is fine, but can they tell me what is better that they can get passed?

I see no alternative to this particular piece of legislation that is not worse.

The worst thing to do would be to defeat this bipartisan budget agreement and then deal with sequester or a debt crisis or a shutdown or, at best, a CR that would project these quarrels forward into the next year.

It is already a pretty tense political time between all sides.

The fact, again, that we are coming together and making a bipartisan agreement really reflects well on our respective leaders on each side of the aisle and certainly on the President.

I think if the Members will vote in a bipartisan fashion, it will reflect well on them and on the institution as well.

Mr. Speaker, I know some doubted that we could ever work together. I think this is the most significant thing we have done together this year, and I just want to thank all concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to supporting it enthusiastically. I hope others of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will do the same.

Mr. Speaker, with that, while I oppose the rule, I would certainly urge passage of both these important pieces of legislation, and I look forward to working with my friends in that regard.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for his comments. I almost thought he was going to support the rule. I just felt it was moving in that direction, but not quite, but I do want to thank him.

And, particularly, I think, during the 35 days that we were in shutdown mode at the beginning of this year, there were a lot of hard lessons learned by a lot of people, and there were a lot of people who suffered, starting with the people that needed assistance in one way or another by Federal employees who were, in effect, sitting at home waiting for us to open the government again.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, I think that hard lesson—and we met pretty much every night in the Rules Committee, the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman is an appropriator—that was something that weighed heavily on all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to applaud the Republicans and Democrats, our leadership, and the White House in coming up with a compromise.

I know there will be some on my side that will not support this for a variety of reasons, and I know there will be some on Mr. COLE's side as well, but, hopefully, we can garner enough support—and I think it will be strong support—today for both of these pieces of legislation that are brought up under the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for joining me to speak on the rule and these pieces of legislation.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 549, the Venezuelan TPS Act, which we already know is supported by a bipartisan majority in this House.

We also need and must pass H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. This legislation will raise the debt ceiling for 2 years and increases discretionary spending caps for fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021. The deal achieves parity between increases in defense and nondefense spending and lets the House and the Senate get back to negotiation on all of the appropriations bills so that Congress can fulfill its constitutional duty of funding the government.

As we look ahead to the next several weeks, which we will spend in our districts visiting with constituents and touring local businesses, I look forward to sharing with my constituents that despite our disagreements and everything that they may see on TV, we can still come together and get things done on behalf of America.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote on the rule and the previous question.

The material previously referred to by Mr. COLE is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 519

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 336) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment described in section 5 of this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC 5. The amendment referred to in Section 4 is an amendment to H.R. 336 to add at the end of the bill the following:

SEC. 406. CLARIFICATION OF DEADLINE FOR REPORT ON ESTABLISHING AN ENTERPRISE FUND FOR JORDAN.

For purposes of section 205(a), the term ‘establishment of the United States Development Finance Corporation’ means the end of the transition period, as defined in section 1461 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (division F of Public Law 115–254).

SEC. 407. FORM OF REPORT ON THE COOPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL WITH RESPECT TO COUNTERING UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.

The report required under section 123(d) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 408. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON WITHDRAWALS OF UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SYRIA AND AFGHANISTAN.

(a) Findings—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The foreign terrorist organization al Qaeda, responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001, maintains a presence in Afghanistan.

(2) The Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham, better known by its acronym ISIS, flourished in the chaos unleashed by the civil war in Syria and at one point controlled extensive territory in Iraq and Syria.

(3) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have murdered thousands of innocent civilians.

(4) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have proven resilient and have regrouped when the United States and its partners have withdrawn from the fight against them.

(b) Sense of Congress—Congress—

(1) acknowledges that the United States military and our partners have made significant progress in the campaign against al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), and honors the contributions and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have served on the front lines of this fight;

(2) recognizes the continuing threat to the homeland and our allies posed by al Qaeda and ISIS, which maintain an ability to operate in Syria and Afghanistan;

(3) expresses concern that Iran has supported the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hizballah and the Assad regime in Syria, and has sought to frustrate diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts in these two countries;

(4) recognizes the positive role the United States and its partners have played in Syria and Afghanistan fighting terrorist groups,

countering Iranian aggression, deterring the further use of chemical weapons, and protecting human rights;

(5) warns that a precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from the ongoing fight against these groups, without effective, countervailing efforts to secure gains in Syria and Afghanistan, could allow terrorists to regroup, destabilize critical regions, and create vacuums that could be filled by Iran or Russia, to the detriment of United States interests and those of our allies;

(6) recognizes that al Qaeda and ISIS pose a global threat, which merits increased international contributions to the counterterrorism, diplomatic, and stabilization efforts underway in Syria and Afghanistan;

(7) recognizes that diplomatic efforts to secure peaceful, negotiated solutions to the conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan are necessary to long-term stability and counterterrorism efforts in the Middle East and South Asia;

(8) acknowledges the progress made by Special Representative Khalilzad in his efforts to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan;

(9) calls upon the Administration to conduct a thorough review of the military and diplomatic strategies in Syria and Afghanistan, including an assessment of the risk that withdrawal from those countries could strengthen the power and influence of Russia and Iran in the Middle East and South Asia and undermine diplomatic efforts toward negotiated, peaceful solutions;

(10) requests that the Administration, as part of this review, solicit the views of Israel, our regional partners, and other key troop-contributing nations in the fight against al Qaeda and ISIS;

(11) reiterates support for international diplomatic efforts to facilitate peaceful, negotiated resolutions to the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan on terms that respect the rights of innocent civilians and deny safe havens to terrorists;

(12) calls upon the Administration to pursue a strategy that sets the conditions for the long-term defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS, as well as the protection of regional partners and allies, while ensuring that Iran cannot dominate the region or threaten Israel;

(13) encourages close collaboration between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch to ensure continuing strong, bipartisan support for United States military operations in Syria and Afghanistan; and

(14) calls upon the Administration to certify that conditions have been met for the enduring defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any significant withdrawal of United States forces from Syria or Afghanistan.

(c) Rule of Construction—Nothing in this section shall be construed as a declaration of war or an authorization of the use of military force.

SEC. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 336.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1303

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 1 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 519;

Adoption of House Resolution 519, if ordered; and

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 693.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3877, BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 549, VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019; AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(A) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 519) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3877) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 549) to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 234, nays 195, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 508]

YEAS—234

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

NAYS—195

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Abraham | Balderson | Buchanan |
| Aderholt | Banks | Buck |
| Allen | Barr | Bucshon |
| Amash | Bergman | Budd |
| Amodei | Biggs | Burchett |
| Armstrong | Bilirakis | Burgess |
| Arrington | Bishop (UT) | Byrne |
| Babin | Bost | Calvert |
| Bacon | Brooks (AL) | Carter (GA) |
| Baird | Brooks (IN) | Carter (TX) |

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

NOT VOTING—3

- | | | |
|-------|------------|---------------|
| Brady | McClintock | Thompson (PA) |
|-------|------------|---------------|

□ 1336

Messrs. SIRES, NORCROSS, and HARDER of California changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 232, nays 197, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 509]

YEAS—232

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Adams | Blunt Rochester | Carson (IN) |
| Aguilar | Bonamici | Cartwright |
| Allred | Boyle, Brendan F. | Case |
| Axne | Brindisi | Casten (IL) |
| Barragán | Brown (MD) | Castor (FL) |
| Bass | Brownley (CA) | Castro (TX) |
| Beatty | Bustos | Chu, Judy |
| Bera | Butterfield | Cicilline |
| Beyer | Carbajal | Cisneros |
| Bishop (GA) | Cárdenas | Clark (MA) |
| Blumenauer | | Clarke (NY) |

Clay Johnson (TX)
 Cleaver Kaptur
 Clyburn Keating
 Cohen Kelly (IL)
 Connolly Kennedy
 Cooper Khanna
 Costa Kildee
 Courtney Kilmer
 Cox (CA) Kim
 Craig Kind
 Crist Kirkpatrick
 Crow Krishnamoorthi
 Cuellar Kuster (NH)
 Cummings Lamb
 Cunningham Langevin
 Davids (KS) Larsen (WA)
 Davis (CA) Larson (CT)
 Davis, Danny K. Lawrence
 Dean Lawson (FL)
 DeFazio Lee (CA)
 DeGette Lee (NV)
 DeLauro Levin (CA)
 DelBene Levin (MI)
 Delgado Lewis
 Demings Lieu, Ted
 DeSaulnier Lipinski
 Deutch Loeback
 Dingell Lofgren
 Doggett Lowenthal
 Doyle, Michael Lowey
 F, Luján
 Engel Luria
 Escobar Lynch
 Eshoo Malinowski
 Espaillat Maloney,
 Evans Carolyn B.
 Finkenauer Maloney, Sean
 Fletcher Matsui
 Foster McAdams
 Frankel McBath
 Fudge McCollum
 Gabbard McEachin
 Gallego McGovern
 Garamendi McNerney
 Garcia (IL) Meeks
 Garcia (TX) Meng
 Golden Moore
 Gomez Morelle
 Gonzalez (TX) Moulton
 Gotthelmer Mucarsel-Powell
 Green, Al (TX) Murphy
 Grijalva Nadler
 Haaland Napolitano
 Hastings Neal
 Hayes Neguse
 Heck Norcross
 Higgins (NY) O'Halleran
 Hill (CA) Ocasio-Cortez
 Himes Omar
 Horn, Kendra S. Pallone
 Horsford Panetta
 Houlahan Pappas
 Hoyer Pascrell
 Huffman Payne
 Jackson Lee Perlmutter
 Jayapal Peters
 Jeffries Peterson
 Johnson (GA) Phillips

NAYS—197

Abraham Carter (TX)
 Aderholt Chabot
 Allen Cheney
 Amash Cline
 Amodei Cloud
 Arrington Cole
 Babin Collins (GA)
 Bacon Collins (NY)
 Baird Comer
 Balderson Conaway
 Banks Cook
 Barr Crawford
 Bergman Crenshaw
 Biggs Curtis
 Billirakis Davidson (OH)
 Bishop (UT) Davis, Rodney
 Bost DesJarlais
 Brady Diaz-Balart
 Brooks (AL) Duffy
 Brooks (IN) Duncan
 Buchanan Dunn
 Buck Emmer
 Bucshon Estes
 Budd Ferguson
 Burchett Fitzpatrick
 Burgess Fleischmann
 Byrne Flores
 Calvert Fortenberry
 Carter (GA) Foxx (NC)

Pingree
 Pocan
 Porter
 Pressley
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Raskin
 Rice (NY)
 Richmond
 Rose (NY)
 Rouda
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan
 Sánchez
 Sarbanes
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schriber
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shalala
 Sherman
 Sherrill
 Sires
 Slotkin
 Smith (WA)
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Speier
 Stanton
 Stevens
 Suozzi
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres Small
 (NM)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Underwood
 Van Drew
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson Coleman
 Welch
 Wexton
 Wild
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

Miller
 Mitchell
 Moolenaar
 Mooney (WV)
 Mullin
 Newhouse
 Norman
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Palmer
 Pence
 Perry
 Posey
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reschenthaler
 Rice (SC)
 Rigglesman
 Roby
 Rodgers (WA)
 Roe, David P.
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rooney (FL)
 Rose, John W.
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rutherford
 Scalise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Shimkus
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Spano
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Taylor
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Timmons
 Tipton
 Turner
 Upton
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walker
 Walorski
 Waltz
 Watkins
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Wright
 Yoho
 Young
 Zeldin

NOT VOTING—3

Armstrong Correa McClintock

□ 1344

The resolution was agreed to.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
 A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESSIONAL BASEBALL GAME RAISES WELL OVER \$1 MILLION FOR CHARITY

(Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)
 Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we didn't want to let the August recess go by without giving our annual report on the Congressional Baseball Game for Charity. I know you have been waiting for this moment, Mr. Speaker.

Once again, over 20,000 people came to Nationals Park to watch an exciting game of baseball between the Democrats and the Republicans. It was a rowdy crowd at Nationals Park. It was an exciting, action-packed game.

I am happy to report to the House of Representatives that, once again, the Democrats won the game 14-7.

I want to commend the Republican team. They played a very competitive game. They have got some new players. They are playing with a lot more resolve, and we look forward to competitive matches with them in the future.

Our MVP this year was CEDRIC RICHMOND, who pitched a complete game, and we had a record number of freshman Members playing on the team this year. In addition, we had two outstanding women on the team, LINDA SÁNCHEZ and NANETTE BARRAGÁN, who added much to the team.

So, in the end, Mr. Speaker, the real winners of this game are the charities.

The game this year raised a little shy of \$1.3 million for the charities. So it was a good cause and good camaraderie.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that those of us on the Democratic team genuinely like our colleagues on the Republican baseball team. We get along great together. We have a lot of fun. We practice hard, and we play our hearts out to give the crowd a good game and raise money for the charity.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), the Republican manager.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), and I just want to congratulate the Democrats for a hard victory.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman used some words over there that I didn't understand when he said "generally" and some other things, but we will talk about that later. But I congratulate them for their victory.

I also want to congratulate our players for the Republican team. From March 1 to game day, from 6 to 7:30, they played and practiced, and I thank the gentleman for their involvement.

I also congratulate the gentleman from the great State of Florida (Mr. STEUBE), who was our most valuable player. Mr. Speaker, I asked him to throw strikes, and he threw strikes and did a great job for us.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to just remind everybody, this is a bipartisan event—it truly is—and for at least a moment, we come together to share the love of this country and the love of the great game of baseball. I want to thank everybody for participating.

The charities were mentioned; the largest amount raised for the charities since we have been playing this ball game, and that is the most important thing.

And, also, I want to say to my players, who I dearly love, we come back, I think, September 3. At 6 will be our first practice, September 3, to begin the journey to victory next year over the Democrats.

I just close with a quote from the great Satchel Paige, a great Hall of Fame pitcher, who won two games of a doubleheader in 1948. When asked what his best pitch was, was it his curve ball or his fastball, he told the press it was neither. "It was my 'be' ball."

The press said: "What is your 'be' ball?"

He said: "When I throw it, it goes where I want it to be."

And where we want to be next year is right over there holding that trophy, beating the Democrats.

U.S. SENATOR JOSEPH D. TYDINGS MEMORIAL PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 693) to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 333, nays 96, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 510]

YEAS—333

Adams	Dean	Johnson (TX)
Aguilar	DeFazio	Joyce (OH)
Allred	DeGette	Joyce (PA)
Amodel	DeLauro	Kaptur
Arrington	DelBene	Katko
Axne	Delgado	Keating
Babin	Demings	Keller
Bacon	DeSaulnier	Kelly (IL)
Banks	Deuch	Kelly (PA)
Barragán	Diaz-Balart	Kennedy
Bass	Dingell	Khanna
Beatty	Doggett	Kildee
Bera	Doyle, Michael	Kilmer
Beyer	F.	Kim
Bilirakis	Engel	Kind
Bishop (GA)	Escobar	King (NY)
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Kinzinger
Blunt Rochester	Espallat	Kirkpatrick
Bonamici	Estes	Krishnamoorthi
Bost	Evans	Kuster (NH)
Boyle, Brendan	Finkenauer	LaHood
F.	Fitzpatrick	Lamb
Brindisi	Fletcher	Langevin
Brooks (IN)	Flores	Larsen (WA)
Brown (MD)	Fortenberry	Larson (CT)
Brownley (CA)	Foster	Latta
Buchanan	Frankel	Lawrence
Buck	Fudge	Lawson (FL)
Budd	Fulcher	Lee (CA)
Burchett	Gabbard	Lee (NV)
Burgess	Gallagher	Levin (CA)
Bustos	Gallego	Levin (MI)
Butterfield	Garamendi	Lewis
Calvert	Garcia (IL)	Lieu, Ted
Carbajal	Garcia (TX)	Lipinski
Cárdenas	Gianforte	Loebsack
Carson (IN)	Golden	Lofgren
Carter (GA)	Gomez	Long
Cartwright	Gonzalez (OH)	Lowenthal
Case	Gonzalez (TX)	Lowe
Casten (IL)	Gooden	Luetkemeyer
Castor (FL)	Gottheimer	Lujan
Castro (TX)	Granger	Luria
Chabot	Green, Al (TX)	Lynch
Chu, Judy	Griffith	Malinowski
Cicilline	Grijalva	Maloney,
Cisneros	Grothman	Carolyn B.
Clark (MA)	Guest	Maloney, Sean
Clarke (NY)	Haaland	Marshall
Clay	Hagedorn	Mast
Cleaver	Harder (CA)	Matsui
Clyburn	Hastings	McAdams
Cohen	Hayes	McBath
Collins (NY)	Heck	McCaul
Connolly	Herrera Beutler	McCollum
Cook	Higgins (NY)	McEachin
Cooper	Hill (AR)	McGovern
Correa	Hill (CA)	McHenry
Costa	Himes	McKinley
Courtney	Horn, Kendra S.	McNerney
Cox (CA)	Horsford	Meeks
Craig	Houlahan	Meng
Crawford	Hoyer	Meuser
Crist	Hudson	Mitchell
Crow	Huffman	Moolenaar
Cuellar	Huizenga	Moore
Cummings	Hurd (TX)	Morelle
Cunningham	Jackson Lee	Moulton
Curtis	Jayapal	Mucarsel-Powell
Davids (KS)	Jeffries	Murphy
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Nadler
Davis, Danny K.	Johnson (LA)	Napolitano
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (OH)	Neal

Neguse	Sarbanes
Norcross	Scanlon
O'Halleran	Schakowsky
Ocasio-Cortez	Schiff
Omar	Schneider
Pallone	Schrader
Panetta	Schrier
Pappas	Schweikert
Pascarell	Scott (VA)
Payne	Scott, David
Pence	Sensenbrenner
Perlmutter	Serrano
Perry	Sewell (AL)
Peters	Shalala
Peterson	Sherman
Phillips	Sherrill
Pingree	Shimkus
Pocan	Sires
Porter	Slotkin
Posey	Smith (NJ)
Pressley	Smith (WA)
Price (NC)	Smucker
Quigley	Soto
Raskin	Spanberger
Reed	Speier
Reschenthaler	Stanton
Rice (NY)	Staub
Rice (SC)	Stefanik
Richmond	Steil
Riggleman	Stevens
Rodgers (WA)	Stewart
Rooney (FL)	Stivers
Rose (NY)	Suozzi
Rouda	Swalwell (CA)
Roybal-Allard	Takano
Ruiz	Taylor
Ruppersberger	Thompson (CA)
Rush	Thompson (MS)
Ryan	Thompson (PA)
Sánchez	Tipton

NAYS—96

Abraham	Foxx (NC)	Mooney (WV)
Aderholt	Gibbs	Mullin
Allen	Gohmert	Newhouse
Amash	Gosar	Norman
Armstrong	Graves (GA)	Nunes
Baird	Graves (LA)	Olson
Balderson	Graves (MO)	Palazzo
Barr	Green (TN)	Palmer
Bergman	Guthrie	Ratcliffe
Biggs	Harris	Roby
Bishop (UT)	Hartzler	Roe, David P.
Brady	Hern, Kevin	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (AL)	Hice (GA)	Rogers (KY)
Bucshon	Higgins (LA)	Rose, John W.
Byrne	Holding	Rouzer
Carter (TX)	Hollingsworth	Roy
Cheney	Hunter	Rutherford
Cline	Johnson (SD)	Scalise
Cloud	Jordan	Scott, Austin
Cole	Kelly (MS)	Simpson
Collins (GA)	King (IA)	Smith (MO)
Comer	Kustoff (TN)	Smith (NE)
Conaway	LaMalfa	Spano
Crenshaw	Lamborn	Steube
Davidson (OH)	Lesko	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Loudermilk	Timmons
Duffy	Lucas	Webster (FL)
Duncan	Marchant	Westerman
Dunn	Massie	Womack
Emmer	McCarthy	Woodall
Ferguson	Meadows	Wright
Fleischmann	Miller	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Gaetz	McClintock	Visclosky
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□ 1358

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. 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 (Mr. COURTNEY). 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. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I urge the Speaker to immediately schedule this important bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 519, I call up the bill (H.R. 3877) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, 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 519, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3877

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 "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019".

TITLE I—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 101. AMENDMENTS TO THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985.

(a) REVISED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—Section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)) is amended by striking paragraphs (7) and (8) and inserting the following:

“(7) for fiscal year 2020—

“(A) for the revised security category, \$666,500,000,000 in new budget authority; and

“(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$621,500,000,000 in new budget authority; and

“(8) for fiscal year 2021—

“(A) for the revised security category, \$671,500,000,000 in new budget authority; and

“(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$626,500,000,000 in new budget authority.”

(b) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS AMOUNTS.—In fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the adjustments under section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism appropriations will be as follows:

(1) For the revised nonsecurity category—

(A) for fiscal year 2020, \$8,000,000,000; and

(B) for fiscal year 2021, \$8,000,000,000.

(2) For the revised security category—

(A) for fiscal year 2020, \$71,500,000,000; and

(B) for fiscal year 2021, \$69,000,000,000.

This subsection shall not affect the applicability of section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(c) NEW ADJUSTMENT FOR THE U.S. CENSUS FOR 2020.—Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) THE 2020 CENSUS.—If, for fiscal year 2020, appropriations for the Periodic Censuses and Programs account of the Bureau of the Census of the Department of Commerce are enacted that the Congress designates in statute as being for the 2020 Census, then the adjustment for that fiscal year shall be the total of such appropriations for that fiscal year designated as being for the 2020 Census, but shall not exceed \$2,500,000,000.”

(d) DIRECT SPENDING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021.—Section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “and (12)” and inserting “(12), and (13)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(13) IMPLEMENTING DIRECT SPENDING REDUCTIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021.—(A) OMB shall make the calculations necessary to implement the direct spending reductions calculated pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) without regard to the amendment made to section 251(c) revising the discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019.

“(B) Paragraph (5)(B) shall not be implemented for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.”

SEC. 102. BALANCES ON THE PAYGO SCORECARDS.

Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the balances on the PAYGO scorecards established pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)) shall be zero.

TITLE II—ESTABLISHING A CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET

SEC. 201. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET RESOLUTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Upon the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) the Chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels included in the statement referred to in section 1(b) of House Resolution 293 (116th Congress) consistent with this Act; and

(2) subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 1 of House Resolution 293 (116th Congress) shall have no force or effect through the remainder of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress.

SEC. 202. AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET RESOLUTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2021.—If a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2021 has not been adopted by April 15, 2020, for the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 for fiscal year 2021, the allocations, aggregates, and levels provided for in subsection (b) shall apply in the House of Representatives after April 15, 2020, in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2021 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2021 and for fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

(b) COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND LEVELS.—In the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Committee on the Budget shall submit a statement for publication in the Congressional Record after April 15, 2020, but not later than May 15, 2020, containing—

(1) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal year 2021 consistent with discretionary spending limits set forth in section 251(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by this Act, and the outlays flowing therefrom, and committee allocations for fiscal year 2021 for current

law mandatory budget authority and outlays, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(2) for all committees of the House of Representatives other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal year 2021 and for the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2030 consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted, to the extent practicable, for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline is issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(3) aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2021 in accordance with the allocations established under paragraphs (1) and (2), for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(4) aggregate revenue levels for fiscal year 2021 and for the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2030 consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted, to the extent practicable, for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline is issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(c) ADDITIONAL MATTER.—The statement referred to in subsection (b) may also include for fiscal year 2021 the matter contained in the provisions referred to in subsection (e).

(d) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels included in the statement referred to in subsection (b)—

(1) to reflect changes resulting from the Congressional Budget Office’s updates to its baseline for fiscal years 2021 through 2030; or

(2) for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2025 or fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2030.

(e) APPLICATION.—

(1) Upon submission of the statement referred to in subsection (b), all references to allocations, aggregates, or other appropriate levels in “this concurrent resolution” in sections 5201, 5202, and 5203 of the House Concurrent Resolution 71 (115th Congress), specified in section 30104(f)(1) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and continued in effect by section 103(m) of House Resolution 6 (116th Congress) and section 1(h)(1) of House Resolution 293 (116th Congress), shall be treated for all purposes in the House of Representatives as references to the allocations, aggregates, or other appropriate levels contained in the statement referred to in subsection (b), as adjusted in accordance with this or any other Act.

(2) The provisions of House Concurrent Resolution 71 (115th Congress), specified in section 30104(f)(1) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, shall have no force or effect in the House of Representatives except for the sections of such concurrent resolution identified in paragraph (1).

(f) EXPIRATION.—Subsections (a) through (e) shall no longer apply if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2021 is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives.

SEC. 203. LIMITATION ON ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House of Representatives, except as provided in sub-

section (b), any general appropriation bill or bill or joint resolution continuing appropriations, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, may not provide an advance appropriation.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—An advance appropriation may be provided for programs, activities or accounts identified in lists submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chair of the Committee on the Budget—

(1) for fiscal year 2022, under the heading “Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations” in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$28,852,000,000 in new budget authority, and for fiscal year 2023, accounts separately identified under the same heading; and

(2) for fiscal year 2022, under the heading “Veterans Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations”.

(c) DEFINITION.—The term “advance appropriation” means any new discretionary budget authority provided in a general appropriation bill or bill or joint resolution continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, or any amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that first becomes available following fiscal year 2021.

(d) EXPIRATION.—The preceding subsections of this section shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2021 is agreed to by the Senate and the House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

SEC. 204. AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET RESOLUTION IN THE SENATE.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2020.—For the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) and enforcing budgetary points of order in prior concurrent resolutions on the budget, the allocations, aggregates, and levels provided for in subsection (b) shall apply in the Senate in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2020 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2020 and for fiscal years 2021 through 2029.

(b) COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND LEVELS.—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall submit a statement for publication in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act that includes—

(1) for the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, committee allocations for fiscal year 2020 consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by this Act, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633);

(2) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2020, 2020 through 2024, and 2020 through 2029 consistent with the May 2019 baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline was issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633);

(3) aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2020 in accordance with the allocations established under paragraphs (1) and (2), for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 642);

(4) aggregate revenue levels for fiscal years 2020, 2020 through 2024, and 2020 through 2029 consistent with the May 2019 baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline was issued and ending on

the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 642); and

(5) levels of Social Security revenues and outlays for fiscal years 2020, 2020 through 2024, and 2020 through 2029 consistent with the May 2019 baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline was issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633, 642).

(c) **ADDITIONAL MATTER.**—The filing referred to in subsection (b) may also include for fiscal year 2020 the deficit-neutral reserve funds in title III of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, updated by two fiscal years.

(d) **EXPIRATION.**—This section shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2020 is agreed to by the Senate and the House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 205. AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET RESOLUTION IN THE SENATE.

(a) **FISCAL YEAR 2021.**—For the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), after April 15, 2020, and enforcing budgetary points of order in prior concurrent resolutions on the budget, the allocations, aggregates, and levels provided for in subsection (b) shall apply in the Senate in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2021 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2021 and for fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

(b) **COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND LEVELS.**—After April 15, 2020, but not later than May 15, 2020, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall file—

(1) for the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, committee allocations for fiscal year 2021 consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by this Act, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633);

(2) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2021, 2021 through 2025, and 2021 through 2030 consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline is issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 642);

(3) aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2021 in accordance with the allocations established under paragraphs (1) and (2), for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 642);

(4) aggregate revenue levels for fiscal years 2021, 2021 through 2025, and 2021 through 2030 consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline is issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 642); and

(5) levels of Social Security revenues and outlays for fiscal years 2021, 2021 through

2025, and 2021 through 2030 consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline is issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633, 642).

(c) **ADDITIONAL MATTER.**—The filing referred to in subsection (b) may also include for fiscal year 2021 the deficit-neutral reserve funds in title III of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, updated by three fiscal years.

(d) **EXPIRATION.**—This section shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2021 is agreed to by the Senate and the House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 206. LIMITATION ON ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SENATE.

(a) **POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SENATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **POINT OF ORDER.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would provide an advance appropriation for a discretionary account.

(B) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term “advance appropriation” means any new budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for fiscal year 2020 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2020 or any new budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for fiscal year 2021 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2021.

(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Advance appropriations may be provided—

(A) for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 for programs, projects, activities, or accounts identified in a statement submitted to the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate under the heading “Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations” in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$28,852,000,000 in new budget authority in each fiscal year;

(B) for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and

(C) for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, Veterans Medical Community Care, and Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration.

(3) **SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.**—

(A) **WAIVER.**—In the Senate, paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) **APPEAL.**—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under paragraph (1).

(4) **FORM OF POINT OF ORDER.**—A point of order under paragraph (1) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 644(e)).

(5) **CONFERENCE REPORTS.**—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill or joint resolution, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this subsection, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report or amendment between the Houses shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the

question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this paragraph), no further amendment shall be in order.

(b) **SUNSET.**—Subsection (a) shall terminate on the date on which a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2021 is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 207. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST CERTAIN CHANGES IN MANDATORY PROGRAMS IN THE SENATE.

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “CHIMP” means a provision that—

(1) would have been estimated as affecting direct spending or receipts under section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902) (as in effect prior to September 30, 2002) if the provision was included in legislation other than appropriation Acts; and

(2) results in a net decrease in budget authority in the budget year, but does not result in a net decrease in outlays over the period of the total of the current year, the budget year, and all fiscal years covered under the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget.

(b) **POINT OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a full fiscal year, or an amendment thereto, amendment between the Houses in relation thereto, conference report thereon, or motion thereon, that includes a CHIMP that, if enacted, would cause the absolute value of the total budget authority of all such CHIMPs enacted in relation to a full fiscal year to be more than the amount specified in paragraph (2).

(2) **AMOUNT.**—The amount specified in this paragraph is, for fiscal year 2021, \$15,000,000,000.

(c) **DETERMINATION.**—For purposes of this section, budgetary levels shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(d) **SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL IN THE SENATE.**—In the Senate, subsection (b) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (b).

SEC. 208. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST DESIGNATION OF FUNDS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS IN THE SENATE.

(a) **POINT OF ORDER.**—When the Senate is considering a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report, if a point of order is made by a Senator against a provision that designates funds for fiscal years 2020 or 2021 for overseas contingency operations, in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)), and the point of order is sustained by the Chair, that provision shall be stricken from the measure and may not be offered as an amendment from the floor.

(b) FORM OF THE POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under subsection (a) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 644(e)).

(c) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill or joint resolution, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to subsection (a), and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report or House amendment shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

(d) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—In the Senate, this section may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

(e) SUSPENSION OF POINT OF ORDER.—This section shall not apply if a declaration of war by Congress is in effect.

SEC. 209. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

The sections of this title are enacted by the Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of such House.

TITLE III—TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

SEC. 301. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply for the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on July 31, 2021.

(b) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS ISSUED DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.—Effective on August 1, 2021, the limitation in effect under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be increased to the extent that—

(1) the face amount of obligations issued under chapter 31 of such title and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury) outstanding on August 1, 2021, exceeds

(2) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EXTENSION LIMITED TO NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS.—An obligation shall not be taken into account under subsection (b)(1) unless the issuance of such obligation was necessary to fund a commitment incurred pur-

suant to law by the Federal Government that required payment before August 1, 2021.

TITLE IV—OFFSETS

SEC. 401. CUSTOMS USER FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “October 20, 2027” and inserting “September 30, 2029”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “September 30, 2027” and inserting “September 30, 2029”.

(b) RATE FOR MERCHANDISE PROCESSING FEES.—Section 503 of the United States–Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112–41; 19 U.S.C. 3805 note) is amended by striking “May 26, 2027” and inserting “September 30, 2029”.

SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF DIRECT SPENDING REDUCTIONS THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2029.

Section 251A(6) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(6)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “fiscal years 2022 through 2027” and inserting “fiscal years 2022 through 2029”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “fiscal year 2027” and inserting “fiscal year 2029”.

TITLE V—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 501. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

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

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 3877.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, we have an opportunity to advance bipartisan legislation that will help secure a stronger future for American families and our Nation's economy.

The 2-year budget caps deal we are now debating raises the debt ceiling and increases the budget caps for 2020 and 2021. It stops extreme sequestration cuts of \$125 billion from being implemented, helps us avoid another devastating government shutdown, and establishes a realistic budgetary frame-

work so that we can make critical investments in our Nation's people and prosperity.

This budget agreement represents a vast improvement over the harmful cuts contained in the President's 2020 budget proposal. It rejects the Trump budget's 9 percent cut to nondefense discretionary spending that would have weakened national and economic security, endangered public health, and crippled critical programs that support American families.

Instead, this bill will allow us to make strong investments in everything from K–12 education and infrastructure to research and development, clean energy, and veterans' healthcare.

This is about finally moving us past the threat of sequestration. It is about upholding the full faith and credit of the United States. And it is about providing much-needed certainty to our communities and for our economy.

This bipartisan agreement is a victory for the American people. In the most divisive and polarizing environment in our lifetimes, it is a much-needed example of Congress coming together to prioritize the American people over self-serving politics.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to fulfill our obligations to govern and ensure we meet the needs and priorities of the American people by passing this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, one of the most fundamental duties of Congress is to fund the government. I am pleased that, after months of uncertainty, a budget agreement has been reached, thanks to the work of the President, his Cabinet, and the Congress.

This 2-year funding deal ends the threat of sequestration and continues to improve our military strength. It doubles down on our commitment to serving and protecting the American people by enhancing the United States' defense capabilities and ensuring our courageous troops have the resources they need to deter, fight, and win.

It wasn't that long ago, Mr. Speaker, that our military was in the midst of a readiness crisis. It would be irresponsible, in my strong opinion, to retreat back to that point. This deal helps us prevent that.

The legislation averts a \$71 billion cut to defense that would have taken place early next year, absent an agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I am a 30-year veteran of the Arkansas National Guard, one deployment under my belt. I chair the Board of Visitors at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and I recognize the rise of the threat facing us around the globe. I also understand the devastation a sequester would cause.

It is not something that we can allow to happen, and I have seen the numbers floating around about what Congress is about to do.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. The requester numbers that would have taken place if this Congress didn't act were never going to happen. Anybody who suggests that we were going to cut \$71 billion from national defense is not being intellectually honest. We were not going to allow that to happen.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also takes the chaos that would ensue following another government shutdown off the table. Nobody in this room likes continuing resolutions or big omnibus packages. We take those off the table.

Now, I will be honest. This is not a perfect deal. It is not the bill I would have written if I were just a Congress of one. No compromise in any serious negotiation where there are two competing sides will ever result in a perfect outcome. But it does allow us to move forward with a measure of stability for our economy.

Again, I highlight that these negotiations brought forward an important agreement in which there will be no poison pills in the funding bills for this year or next and a concerted effort to strive toward no shutdowns and no large omnibus packages.

Any compromise involves hard choices. I don't know of a committee in the Congress, in the House of Representatives, that has to make more hard choices than the people who gather around that Committee on Appropriations markup room.

For our distinguished chairwoman, NITA LOWEY, and all of my fellow appropriators who have a lot of requests, there are never enough resources to meet all of them, but we have to make some very hard choices.

Then, let's not forget the real and practical impact of our current debt and the deficits that add to that debt. We need to put America back on a responsible fiscal path. While I support the progress we have made in this bill, I feel strongly that Congress must address the looming crisis of our debt for our children and our grandchildren.

But here is an inconvenient truth: Total discretionary spending, when I came to Congress, was almost \$1.3 trillion. That was what we spent on the discretionary budget of the U.S. Government. That is the part of government that most people identify with. Next year, under this caps agreement, discretionary spending is going to be just under \$1.4 trillion. That is not much of an increase over a 10-year period.

To put it in perspective, discretionary spending was 9 percent of GDP when I came to Congress. It is down to 6 percent now.

If you look at the CBO report that we highlighted earlier this year, CBO says—their words—as a percentage of the economy, discretionary spending is going down, and mandatory spending continues to skyrocket.

The year before I came to Congress, mandatory spending was 61 percent of the Federal budget. Today, it is about 70 percent of the Federal budget.

Mandatory spending is putting intense pressure on a lot of programs on the discretionary side that a lot of America relies on.

I think we have to fix that. I don't know what the answer is, but I do know this, Mr. Speaker. I know one of the answers is that we have to get back to regular order.

I can't say it any clearer. We haven't done the budget process that is enshrined in the 1974 Budget Act since I have been in Congress. In fact, most people in Congress look at how we do things now—CRs, omnis, shutdowns, those kinds of things—as normal. It is anything but normal.

I know my friend, Mr. YARMUTH, and I worked very hard, as did Mrs. LOWEY, on the Joint Select Committee on Budget Process Reform last year. We got close. We made a few recommendations. We couldn't quite meet the threshold for reporting, but we took a stab at it. I hope we can elevate that discussion in the 116th Congress and have some success doing that.

Today, we are here to vote on a bipartisan bill, a bill that has been carefully negotiated over weeks with competing interests. The administration has been involved, with Mr. Mnuchin representing the President, and the four corners of leadership. Not the most ideal way to come up with an answer or a solution, but it is what we have today.

Mr. Speaker, with all the things that we have in front of us, let's take the chaos off the table, and let's pass this deal. Then, maybe—maybe—we can elevate the conversation to talk about the real drivers of the deficit and the debt in this country when we come back and as we move into the remainder of this year.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the chair of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3877.

For months, House Democrats have insisted on raising unworkable budget caps so Congress can responsibly fund our government and uphold our commitments to American families.

Unless Congress and the President act, the United States will face \$125 billion in devastating cuts that will hurt American families and weaken our national security.

That is why this bipartisan legislation to avoid this fiscal cliff is so critical. It thoroughly rejects the President's slash-and-burn budget proposal, which would have pulled the rug out from under families and communities by decimating initiatives and services that make a real difference in people's lives.

Instead of reckless cuts, Democrats were successful in securing the largest-ever increase in base funding above sequestration levels. With these more

reasonable budget caps, we can undertake an orderly appropriations process to invest in critical domestic priorities for the people.

While this bipartisan deal represents a compromise, I am proud that it ends the senseless austerity of the Budget Control Act once and for all.

I urge support for this legislation, so that we can help give every American a better chance at a better life.

□ 1415

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the distinguished Republican whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks made by my friend, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) who talked about the importance of what we need to do to get back into a position where we can get control over spending.

There are people that are running around right now trying to pit our Nation's defense against balancing the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, it is a false choice because if you zeroed out the entire Department of Defense's budget, which I hope no one would embrace, if you zeroed it out, you would still have a deficit. So, clearly, it is not the Department of Defense that is the problem. We need a strong national defense.

President Trump has been rebuilding our military. We need to keep rebuilding our military.

Mr. Speaker, we had more men and women die in training exercises than dying in combat over the last 3 years, by a 5-to-1 margin. It was less safe to train to be in the military in the United States of America than it was to go into combat, because they didn't have the tools they needed. Planes were falling out of the sky because they didn't have spare parts.

We have finally started to address that. The last thing we want to do is go backward on that success. And I don't think anybody in this building, voting "yes" or "no," understands or would agree with the idea that if a "no" vote were to be successful, we would have a \$71 billion cut to our Nation's defense, which is one of our prime constitutional responsibilities.

So we have got to get back to solving the real problems with deficits; and we all know where that is coming from, the mandatory side.

We had a bill just in the last Congress that would have cut over \$800 billion, while improving the healthcare of the people of our country. And if there are better ways to go and fix these broken programs, then please put those on the table. But we need to go back to that.

But in this bill, not only does it allow the President to keep rebuilding our military, it actually protects the pro-life gains that we have made. We have made incredible gains to protect innocent life.

That is why groups like National Right to Life have said such strong things about why this is so important; why President Trump needs this bill so that he can rebuild our military, and keep building wall and border security, which is so important. We have to secure our border. This bill includes the ability for the President to do that as well.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), the vice chair of the Budget Committee.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, this agreement is a good step forward; not a great step, but a good step.

As vice chairman of the Budget Committee, and a veteran who serves on the Armed Services Committee, I want to speak for a moment about its impact on our national security.

This bill turns our attention to confronting and out-competing our adversaries. And partly, it does so by ending the threat of sequestration.

Now, we all know that the Budget Control Act was established with the tool of sequestration in an effort to improve our budgeting process to, in fact, address our debt, which itself is a threat to our national security. But we also know that that hasn't worked. And in the meantime, our national security, our defense budgeting is at risk.

This bill not only ends that; it also creates parity in increased defense investments with domestic investments. That is a big deal, because it means we will spend as much on the dignity of Americans as we will on their defense.

But it is also important to note that a lot of defense functions, a lot of things that ensure our national security fall under nondefense discretionary spending; things like investing in veterans' healthcare, investing in embassy security. In fact, the entire investment we make in the Department of Homeland Security falls under nondefense discretionary spending, and we increase that significantly with this deal.

But let's not kid ourselves. This deal is not perfect. America is racking up a huge credit card bill which our kids will have to pay. It has skyrocketed under this President and his massive tax cut for the wealthiest few, and this bill does not address that.

And while I don't love that this bill was negotiated behind closed doors, it proves there is middle ground, and it strips Congress of those draconian tools in the Budget Control Act that made that middle ground hard to find.

Chairman YARMUTH and his team have done us a tremendous service. This deal buys us the time and the opportunity to fix the budgeting process, and I hope we will use it.

In the window this creates, where we aren't negotiating under gunpoint, let's fix Congress and create a next-generation budgeting process where there is thoughtful debate and, ultimately, consensus around a fiscally responsible bill. We can get there. We can

start today, and we can begin by passing this bill.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Fort Worth, Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the ranking member on the House Appropriations Committee and a former mayor. I believe mayors have a pretty good idea of what it takes to get things done when there are competing interests.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3877. I am proud to support this 2-year budget agreement, because the alternative, not having an agreement, is simply not an option.

I want all Members to understand the importance of this bill in front of us. This deal keeps our economy on solid ground because the United States will avoid defaulting on our financial obligations. Think of that.

With this agreement, we continue to invest in rebuilding our Nation's defense and protecting our strategic interests around the world. The threat of terrorism continues, and Russian, Chinese, and Iranian aggression is on the rise. It is critical that our military is ready to meet and defeat all threats.

Unfortunately, unless we pass this bill, our military and our veterans would face arbitrary cuts that would be harmful to our security and that of our partners, like Israel and Jordan.

When I was the chairwoman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I worked with the Secretary of Defense to put together a plan to rebuild our military. He said it would take 5 years.

We have only appropriated the funds that were needed for two of those years. We should continue that. If this bill does not pass, the impending cuts will have a devastating impact on our national security.

Our Constitution explicitly states that the Congress provides for the common defense. If we don't pass this bill, we have failed to live up to our Constitutional responsibilities, and I am not willing to do that.

Not only does this budget agreement stabilize funding for our Nation's military over the next 2 years, it also sets up a framework to prevent harmful "poison pill" riders from being included in must-pass funding bills.

Finally, this agreement sets us on a path to complete an orderly appropriations process and avoid a costly government shutdown.

Our President should be commended for negotiating with Congressional leaders to protect key conservative priorities, from maintaining our position as the most powerful military in the world, to protecting the life of the unborn.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill and sending it to the President's desk quickly for a signature.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is crucially important that

we pass this bill. The most fundamental responsibility of government is to fund the government and operate. And as simple as that may sound, over the course of the last 8 years, we have repeatedly failed to do that.

We have had several government shutdowns, countless other threatened government shutdowns, continuing resolutions, and a steady failure to even come close to meeting the October 1st deadline for funding the discretionary portion of the government; and that has had a devastating impact.

Certainly, we have heard on a number of occasions about the impact it has had on our national security. The Department of Defense has not been able to plan its budget for too many years. It has led to inconsistency and, as we have heard, it has led to a readiness crisis.

But this applies also to the non-defense discretionary portion of the budget; to infrastructure, and healthcare, and education, and housing. All of those items have been under uncertainty for too long over the course of the last 8 years.

This budget agreement, though not perfect, funds the government and, I believe, responsibly funds the government, both defense and nondefense.

I really want to commend both Secretary Mnuchin and Speaker PELOSI for coming together and negotiating this agreement. There is no secret that we have big differences between the Democratically controlled House and the White House and the Republican-controlled Senate. But despite those differences, we have to function. We have to be able to fund the government and meet our responsibilities to the American people.

They were able to transcend those differences, get this deal done, and fund the government in a responsible way.

Now, it is absolutely true that the debt and the deficit are still a problem. I know there are many people out there who say that it is not. I just don't see how those numbers add up. You cannot continually spend more money than you take in before it becomes a problem. We need to responsibly address that issue.

I don't think it was responsible to cut taxes by nearly \$2 trillion in the face of that. I certainly also think that defense has to be part of that conversation.

The gentleman earlier said, well, you could zero out the defense budget and it wouldn't make any difference. Well, the defense budget is 17 percent of the budget. If you are 17 percent of a budget that is massively in debt, you are at least part of the problem.

I mean, you can take any one piece of the budget and say, well, that is not the problem. In fact, that is kind of what we have been doing. We have been taking piece by piece and saying, well, we can't cut that; we can't raise that tax.

Meanwhile, we have been insisting on a dollar's worth of government for 80

cents worth of taxes. In the long run, people will pay the price for that. In the short term we have to responsibly fund the government. That is exactly what this bill does.

Again, I thank the leadership that brought this to be, and I urge support and passage of this bill.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Corona, California (Mr. CALVERT), who is the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee that funds the national defense of this country.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Bipartisan Budget Deal of 2019. Like many of my colleagues, there are parts of the deal I object to and parts I strongly support.

As ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I would have preferred a higher top line for defense than \$738 billion. However, we will always choose certainty and on-time appropriations rather than another destructive CR.

Right now, our military is at an inflection point. As our military readiness returns to appropriate operational levels, we must continue to push forward on modernization efforts that will continue America's superiority on land, sea, air, and space into the next century.

Just as former Secretary Mattis woke Americans up to the dire circumstances of our readiness levels, Americans are now beginning to understand that our military superiority can no longer be assumed against near-peer adversaries such as Russia and China.

Whether it is hypersonics, low-yield nuclear weapons, artificial intelligence, or the militarization of space, the gap has closed.

The 2-year budget deal before us today provides the certainty for our military to do what they do best, prepare to win the next war in the hopes that our military might will deter any would-be competitor from ever starting that war.

I know many of my conservative friends are concerned about more deficit spending and adding to our \$22 trillion debt. I share that concern, but we need to look at the full budget picture. Mandatory spending, if you include interest on the debt, now consumes 72 percent of the Federal budget.

National defense actually accounts for 15.6 percent of the budget. That leaves only about 12 percent left in the pie. We cannot balance our budget on the back of 12 percent nondefense discretionary spending. The math does not work.

In fact, since 2010, because of the BCA, accounting for inflation, we have reduced nondefense discretionary spending by 4.65 percent, and we have reduced defense discretionary by 17.2 percent.

To my friends on the left, we cannot continue to ignore realities of mandatory spending and simply spend more on the discretionary side with no regard to the future. And the solutions need not be drastic.

Slowing the rate of growth and making commonsense reforms for future generations would relieve the pressure and allow us to finally have a plan to pay down the debt.

The bill before us is not perfect. That is the nature of compromise. But my "yes" vote is in support of the brave men and women who wear the uniform. It is our duty to support them and their missions.

However, I do not vote blind to our budget reality, which, if left unchecked, will consume our entire budget.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, end the failed experiment of the BCA, and commit to true budget reform that will address our mounting debt.

□ 1430

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank you so very much, Chairman YARMUTH, for yielding time to speak and rise to support this 2-year budget caps and debt ceiling agreement that is before us and urge all of our colleagues to do the same.

This agreement is not perfect. Frankly, it is a difficult vote, given the hard work that our Appropriations Committee has undertaken to diligently write, debate, mark up and pass 10 of our 12 fiscal year 2020 annual spending bills through this Chamber. The other two were written and reported out of committee.

We will have to make hard choices as we work with the Senate to allocate these funds among the 12 subcommittee bills, but as an appropriator, I intimately understand Congress' top responsibility is to keep the ship of state running, ensuring an open, funded, and fully functional government of the United States.

I also know from experience that the full faith and credit of our government can never be questioned. Every one of our constituents deserves this recognition from their elected Member, and this agreement moves Congress past the devastating threats imposed under the Budget Control Act of 2011. Thank goodness.

It avoids deep, automatic cuts that would devastate government's ability to help the American people and meet our obligations to them, including the most vulnerable.

This agreement rejects the devastating cuts the President's fiscal year 2020 budget proposed and maintains significant funding levels for domestic priorities and defense priorities alike.

Most importantly, this agreement moves us a step closer to finalizing appropriate allocation of all our Federal dollars responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, I commend our leadership efforts on both sides of the aisle to

reach a final consensus and bring this bipartisan agreement to the floor. This agreement reflects give-and-take from all sides of Congress and the White House, and it is deserving of a strong bipartisan showing of support from this body.

Let's govern.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, on occasion it is important to reach out to the rural areas of our country for wisdom, and we are going to reach out to west Texas, near Clarendon, Texas. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), my friend, the Republican lead on the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

As the current occupant of the chair will remember, on February 6, 2018, just last year, Secretary of Defense Mattis testified: "Let me be clear, as hard as the last 16 years of war have been, no enemy in the field has done more harm to the readiness of the United States military than the combined impact of the Budget Control Act's defense spending caps, worsened by operating in 10 of the last 11 years under continuing resolutions of varied and unpredictable duration."

Mr. Speaker, this bill before us now fixes, finally, the problems that Secretary Mattis pointed to in his testimony last year, for, as members will recall, starting in 2010, with the responsibility of both Republicans and Democrats, both the White House and Congress, defense spending went down, in real terms, about 20 percent.

And we are not just talking numbers. We are talking increased aircraft accidents. We are talking tragic accidents at sea where sailors were killed. We are talking in all the services, a number of training accidents and malfunctions that had real consequences to the human beings who volunteer to protect our country.

Now, the last 2 years—again, on a bipartisan basis—we have begun to turn that around. We have begun to improve our readiness, begun to improve training, begun, as the gentleman from California was talking about, to narrow some of the gaps that have developed on key technologies with other adversaries. But the job is not done yet. We have to continue that momentum.

While the underlying bill before us does not provide for as much defense spending as I believe we should spend, the certainty of a 2-year deal having more money for defense than was originally in the underlying House budget, all of those things, to me, say the right thing to do is to pass this.

I know Members can find some excuse about what is in the bill they don't like or what is not in the bill that they wish it were. Any sort of legislation that is a result of compromise between two parties, two Houses of Congress, two branches of government, is going to yield that sort of result.

But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot forget that the first function of government is

to provide for the common defense; and the Nation and, especially, the men and women who serve and their families depend upon us doing our job under the Constitution.

Article I, section 8 says it is our job to raise and support, provide and maintain. This bill helps us fulfill that responsibility, and it should be passed.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader of the House of Representatives.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman, Mr. YARMUTH, the chairman of the Budget Committee, for yielding.

I thank Mr. WOMACK for his leadership, both as chairman, now as ranking member on the committee, as we look to pursue fiscally responsible paths, but also fiscal paths that will invest, knowing the national security from the defense standpoint, but the national security from the domestic standpoint.

Obviously, if we have a strong defense but our education system is wanting, our economic system is wanting, our healthcare system is wanting, we will have a national security problem.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, therefore, in support of this bipartisan legislation, which formalizes the agreement reached earlier this week by Speaker PELOSI and Secretary Mnuchin on behalf of the President. It has the support of Senators SCHUMER, MCCONNELL—the Republican leader—and the House Republican leader, Mr. MCCARTHY.

This is what we have been working toward for a very long time, and I am pleased that we are able to secure an agreement before the end of the July work period. This will provide certainty for the American people by providing the top-line guidance necessary for appropriators and the full House and Senate to complete work on funding the government for fiscal year 2020. Ideally, we would do that before September 30 of the coming months.

But this agreement was made possible by virtue of, in my view, the fact that we passed 10 appropriations bills to fund 96 percent of the government before the end of June. That hasn't been done before.

Now, there have been 10 bills passed back in 2006, 13 years ago, but it did not include Labor-Health, so it left out a very big chunk of government funding.

I am proud of the fact that we did that, but it also set a mark. It set an objective. It set, through the chairman's deeming, the numbers that the appropriators could mark up their bills, that we could mark them up in June. It set an expectation of what we could do and should do.

It was also achievable because Democrats were united in our determination to deliver our promise to end the constant brinkmanship that characterized the last several years and restore responsible government for the people.

It is also, in my view, a result of the fact that Secretary Mnuchin wanted to

have a fiscally responsible and knowable end to the differences between the two parties, which undermined our economic security and undermined the confidence of the American people and the international community in the financial stability of our country.

To that end, I am glad that this agreement also suspends the debt limit.

Very frankly, Mr. Speaker, we ought to do away with the debt limit. It is a phony issue. It bears no relation to reality. It is just a game. It is a political gimmick, an item of demagoguery for the Members.

Very frankly, we set a debt limit when we buy something or we borrow something. The United States is going to pay for what it buys, and it is going to pay back what it borrows. That is the debt limit.

This phony number that we are now suspending for a couple of years, I think that is what we should do. But, frankly, if it were up to me, I would do away with the debt limit, not because I don't want to see us bring down the debt, but because I think it bears no relationship to our needs, our challenges, our opportunities.

Those who would have held hostage the full faith and credit of the United States, as some have done in the past to demand partisan concessions, will be prevented from throwing the legislative process into chaos as they have done.

With the threat of default gone and the danger of sequester-level budget cuts removed—and thank goodness, we will see the end of the sequester, which, as I said, bore no relationship to needs and opportunities and responsibilities. With that threat gone, we can now move forward together to invest in fighting poverty, expanding opportunities, strengthening our communities, and, yes, defending our Nation and our allies.

I want to thank Chairman YARMUTH, Chairwoman LOWEY, Chairman NEAL, and Ranking Member WOMACK, who is my friend and who I think is a very responsible, constructive Member of the Congress of the United States trying to work toward fiscal responsibility.

Let there be no mistake: We are going to have to make some tough decisions in the years ahead to make sure that our fiscal house is in order.

Mr. Speaker, the American people ought to know we are receiving the lowest revenue in a very long time, I don't know whether in history—probably not in history—but a very low level of revenue to the government. But we are buying a lot of stuff, and we have got to bring those in balance, what we are willing to pay for and what we need to buy, whether it is in services, either on Social Security or Medicare or anything else, or on operating expenses, on an annual basis.

This is an example, Mr. Speaker, of how we can restore the faith of the American people in their government—

avoid a shutdown, act responsibly, reach agreements, create consensus—by showing them we can be responsible stewards of the economy, that we can advance our democratic values and priorities through bipartisan means, and that we can demonstrate that government can work for the people it serves.

I hope we can all come together today, Mr. Speaker, and approve it, sending a strong sign of support to encourage the Senate to do the same, and to do so quickly.

I urge the President, as he said today in a communication to his Republicans, he said House Republicans should support the 2-year budget agreement, which greatly helps our military and our vets. I am totally with him.

I am pleased that the President supports this agreement. I am pleased that we reached this agreement. I would hope that we could all vote for this agreement, not because as, so many have said, it is perfect, but because it is the result of honest negotiations and discussions between rational people who know that we have a job to do for America, and we are prepared to do it.

I urge a "yes" vote.

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

A constant theme on our side has been that of national security, a reason why we should support the agreement that has been hammered out between the administration and the four corners of leadership in the House and the Senate, and I stand by that.

We have had speakers from the House Armed Services Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee and so on, and it is an important reason because of how much money it commands of Federal taxpayer money to actually protect, secure, and defend the United States of America.

But, Mr. Speaker, one of the discussions, one of the debates we are not having is about the true drivers of the deficit and the debt, and that is a conversation that I would like to introduce in these proceedings today. I brought a chart with me.

As I was preparing my remarks today, I got to thinking: What were the numbers back in 2010 when I first sought office in the House of Representatives versus what we are talking about today?

So we have a snapshot in time of 2010 and a snapshot in time of what we are debating today. Mr. Speaker, I direct your attention to this chart because, in 2010, discretionary spending, which is the spending that most of us kind of relate to the Federal Government, everything from keeping the lights on at this Capitol to paying for the men and women who are downrange defending our freedoms, was a little over \$1.2 trillion in 2010.

□ 1445

The number that we are debating today and that others have been critical of is just under \$1.4 trillion. It is

\$1.37 trillion. It represents an increase of \$114 billion in 10 years. Most people would probably say that, given 10 years—we had a couple of years there where we had trouble with our economy—a percentage increase like that might be within reason.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to direct your attention to the mandatory side of the spending. It has come up a couple of times in our discussion today, the true driver of the deficit and the debt.

When I came to Congress in 2011, the 2016 number was \$2.1 trillion. Today, not part of this discussion, mandatory spending is just under \$3.3 trillion. Mr. Speaker, that is an increase of almost \$1.2 trillion in 10 years. We are not having that discussion today.

I am reminded of the old Bronx-born bank robber, Willie Sutton, Mr. Speaker, who when captured, legend has it, was asked, “Why do you rob banks?” He said, “Because that’s where the money is.”

If we are going to have a meaningful discussion, a constructive discussion about how we put the balance sheet of the U.S. Government back in order, we cannot have an intellectually honest conversation if we are ignoring the bottom line here. In 10 years, mandatory spending has grown 10 times the rate of discretionary spending, yet we are not talking about that today.

Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that when this is all finished, and we pass this bill and put our country on a pretty solid budgetary framework for the next couple of years, that maybe we can sit down to talk about the true drivers of the deficit and the debt.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his great work as the chair of the Budget Committee. He knows better than all of us that our Federal budget should be a statement of our national values and that what is important to us as a Nation should be reflected in that budget. I thank Mr. YARMUTH for his leadership and thank his staff for bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Chairwoman NITA LOWEY, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, and her staff for the important work that they did to help us get to the place we are today. That place is bipartisan legislation which reflects an agreement that is bold, bipartisan, and a victory for the American people.

I think we all agree, including the ranking member, that we all want to reduce the deficit, so let us work in a bipartisan way. The national debt, let’s work in a bipartisan way to do that.

While we are at it, we may want to eliminate the vote on lifting the debt ceiling each year as well because the

full faith and credit of the United States of America should never, ever be in question.

This agreement was reached, and it will meet the needs of the people whom we are honored to represent, investing in middle-class priorities that advance the health, financial security, and well-being of the American people, and enhancing our national security.

Democrats have achieved priorities that we set out from the start. Obviously, we have shared priorities.

We are permanently ending the threat of sequestration. That is a very important measure. The administration has joined us to end the devastating sequestration cuts that threaten our investments to keep America number one in the global economy and, again, ensure our national security.

We are also limiting offsets to half of what was originally proposed to those that were accepted in an earlier bipartisan agreement.

We are taking action to avoid another government shutdown, which is so harmful to meeting the needs of the American people and honoring the work of our important men and women in our Federal workforce, and also the collateral damage that a shutdown does to our economy.

We are securing robust funding for crucial domestic priorities, as I said. We have always insisted on parity in increases between defense and non-defense. We are pleased that our increase in the nondefense budget actually exceeds the parity number on defense by \$10 billion over the next 2 years.

We are pleased to be able to say that we have secured an increase of more than \$100 billion in the budget cap for domestic priorities since the President took office.

Finally, we are safeguarding the full faith and credit of the United States of America by achieving a lifting of the debt limit until July 31, 2021. Perhaps between now and then, we can work in a bipartisan way to address removing all doubt about whether the debt limit will be increased.

It is important to note that this is not about future spending. This is about paying for what we have invested in already.

It was essential that we reach agreement before the upcoming August district work period because we were informed by the Secretary of the Treasury that we might exhaust the full faith and credit during the district work period in August.

We are pleased to have done so with an agreement that meets the needs of America’s families and our national security and achieves so many of our priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong vote for this bill. As I said, we can avoid the damage of sequestration and continue to advance progress for the American people. I urge a “yes” vote.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read from a book that we are all very familiar with, the Constitution of the United States, for just a moment. One of my concerns about what we are doing today, though I support the outcome, is written in Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution: “The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.”

Article I, Section 8, it lays it out pretty simply that the Congress of the United States has the power of the purse.

While I support what we are doing today because I recognize the importance of getting chaos and uncertainty off the table for the reasons already stated in this debate, I am disappointed that the agreement was hammered out by basically four people, four plus one, the administration and four Members of the Congress referenced in Article I, Section 8.

That is our job. The only meaningful debate that has happened over discretionary spending in this country happened only in this Chamber during the debates on appropriations that Mr. HOYER referred to earlier. We have had those discussions.

I don’t agree with everything in those appropriations bills. I never have. But at least we have had that debate on the floor of the House. They have not had that debate on the floor of the Senate.

Here we are today, relying on an agreement hammered out by leaders of both parties in both Chambers with a representative from the administration. To me, Mr. Speaker, that flies in the face of what Article I, Section 8 says it should be like.

Again, I hope and pray that, over time, once we put this issue behind us, realizing that mandatory spending is growing at 10 times the rate of discretionary spending, the very fight that we are having today on this floor, maybe we can get back to regular order, do some legitimate budget process reform so Members like JOHN YARMUTH and myself can work together jointly to produce budgets, engage in debates on the floor of the people’s House, and arrive at outcomes that probably we are all going to agree has stuff in it we like and stuff in it we don’t like.

That is the way the Framers intended this Chamber to be. I am hopeful that we will get there eventually.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) for his hand of conciliation, his reconciliation, and to acknowledge the work that he and the chairman of the Budget Committee have done and the tone in which the Budget Committee has conducted itself in 2019.

Let me, as the gentleman referred to Article I, Section 8, take note of the fact that it is a recognition of the power to lay and collect taxes and duties, to borrow money and regulate commerce, but in particular, I believe that there is an underlying responsibility that when we do lay taxes on the American people, or we cut taxes and give 1 percent of the population an enormous gift of paying no taxes, that we then have a responsibility to try to respond to the Americans who work every day and pay taxes and are wondering, "What is our government doing?" This budget is answering the question.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the gentleman and repeal the Trump tax cuts, as it burdens working Americans, as it denies nonprofits the ability to have deductions when gifts are given to them, but we are where we are today.

This bipartisan budget resolution, which I am grateful to have a combination of leadership and others, eliminates the risk of another costly and devastating government shutdown. There were government workers on food stamps who could not get to work.

It lifts the sequestration caps imposed under the Budget Control Act of 2011 to provide for increased investments in nondefense discretionary programs needed to keep America competitive.

I was in the midst of those discussions, as many of us were. They were devastating. They were cutting the needs of Americans.

We avoid default on the national debt.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the gentleman for yielding.

I want to bring to the attention of the American people what we will be able to do: public health and disease control, highways, waterway maintenance, hazardous waste.

I came from a community where Hurricane Harvey dumped 51 trillion gallons of water. We need infrastructure.

The Army Corps of Engineers, Federal courts, FBI, childcare, disaster assistance, economic development, all of that will now come about.

At the same time, we will ensure that the United States military will be strong.

We will not be competing against each other. By the time we get through, we are avoiding an 11 percent cut to defense and a 9 percent cut to

nondefense discretionary. We are making people whole.

As it relates to what the Budget Committee has done, we have had hearings on healthcare, climate change, education, Medicare, Social Security. We have been doing work in the Budget Committee on issues that are important, but we are seeking parity.

We are helping with domestic priorities. We are saying to the American people that we are not just taking your money and giving it to the top 1 percent of Americans. We are now balancing the budget, or working on the budget, paying down on the debt, and ensuring that we do not default on America's debt.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be able to support this bill to help America.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Budget Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019."

I support this agreement because it:

1. eliminates the risk of another costly and devastating government shutdown;
2. lifts the sequestration caps imposed under the Budget Control Act of 2011 to provide for increased investments in non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs needed to keep America strong and competitive; and
3. avoids default on the national debt and preserves America's standing as the world's most creditworthy nation.

I thank my Chairman YARMUTH of the Budget Committee and Chairman NEAL of the Ways and Means Committee, and the bipartisan and bicameral leadership of the Congress for their work in reaching this agreement and shepherding this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support lifting the caps imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and ending the awful policy of sequestration.

That is why I strongly supported the H.R. 2021, the "Investing For The People Act," when it was marked up by the Budget Committee earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, without Congressional action, statutory caps on discretionary funding will force an 11 percent cut to defense and a 9 percent cut, about \$55 billion, to nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs for 2020 relative to the amounts provided for 2019.

The Balanced Budget Agreement of 2019 replaces these destructive cuts with a realistic budgetary framework so that Congress, through its annual appropriations bills, can make critical investments in our nation's infrastructure and people.

As we learned and documented in several Budget Committee hearings convened by Chairman YARMUTH, such deep cuts would have a devastating effect on U.S. national security and economic vitality.

Failure to lift the budget caps and leaves agencies that respond to public health threats and emergencies vulnerable to harmful cuts.

The National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, along with the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development, play unique roles in preparing for and responding to threats domestically and abroad.

At a time when there are numerous challenges—from outbreaks of Ebola and Zika, to the Flint water crisis, to chronic diseases like

Alzheimer's and cancer, to the opioid epidemic—it is clear we cannot neglect these investments.

Climate change threatens crop yields, infrastructure, water and energy supplies, and human health.

Climate change poses risks to federal property and resources, increases potential outlays from flood and crop insurance, and creates looming disaster assistance needs.

Under sequestration, agencies dealing with this threat would be dramatically underfunded and deprived of the resources needed to respond to this national and global challenge.

According to military experts, diplomacy and foreign aid are critical components of our national security.

Both Trump's own former Secretary of Defense, James Mattis, and former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates have stressed the importance of diplomacy and foreign aid:

"If you don't fully fund the State Department, then I need to buy more ammunition."—then Commander of U.S. Central Command, General James Mattis, 2013

"... based on my experience serving seven presidents, as a former director of C.I.A. and now as secretary of defense, I am here to make the case for strengthening our capacity to use 'soft power' and for better integrating it with 'hard power.'"—Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, 2007

Inadequate nondefense funding levels lead to State and Foreign Operations appropriations bills that:

1. slash embassy security funding by more than 21 percent; and
2. decrease assistance to multilateral organizations, including our UN contributions, signaling to the rest of the world that the U.S. no longer keeps its word.

Mr. Speaker, the sequestration regime created by the Budget Control Act of 2011 is an untenable state of affairs and must be corrected.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 is an important step in the right direction and represents a vast improvement over the harmful cuts contained in the President's 2020 budget, restores certainty to our budgeting and achieves the important priorities of the American people, including:

1. Permanently ends the threat of the sequester and preventing devastating funding cuts of 14 percent to defense spending and 13 percent to non-defense spending, and replaces years of reckless austerity budgeting with responsible budgeting;
2. Achieving parity between defense and non-defense discretionary spending; in fact, the increase in the non-defense budget authority that exceeds the defense number by \$10 billion.

3. Securing robust funding for critical domestic priorities, including an additional \$2.5 billion for a fair, accurate and timely Census; robust funding for veterans, Child Care Development Block Grants, and a strong increase in the National Institutes of Health budget to accelerate life-saving cancer and health research.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly 75 years, since the end of World War II, the world has been impressed by examples of American power.

But what has inspired people the world over is the power of America's example.

To defend America and keep her great and strong, we need to pass the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, which ends sequestration and lifts

the budget caps and enable the Congress to invest in America and her people and restore their faith in their government.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished Republican leader of the United States House of Representatives; my friend and colleague from Bakersfield, California; and a man that I know has a great desire to see regular order played out on the floor of this House and an opportunity to go back to the budget process and appropriations process that we once knew in this great Chamber.

□ 1500

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Republican leader of the Budget Committee for yielding. I also thank him for his work and his desire to see a budget in this Congress.

I wish we had a budget in this Congress; then we would probably be in a little stronger position. But we work in a government that is designed to have compromise, a divided government.

What we are talking about today is a compromise. It is not perfect by any means, but it secures important policy victories that no conservative can, or should, dismiss.

Consider these priorities in the final deal:

The Hyde amendment, perhaps the most important Federal protection for Americans' rights of conscience, cannot be attacked by Democrats' poison pills for 2 years. That means taxpayer money will not be used to fund abortions for the foreseeable future.

Likewise, the Trump administration's Protect Life rule, it will be unimpeded by legislative antics. This vital rule stops organizations like Planned Parenthood from using title X money as their personal piggy bank.

And here we build on what we started in the last Congress, rebuilding our military from the devastating cuts during sequestration. We watch a world that is more dangerous.

I just read an article this week that, in the last 28 months, China has visited more ports than in the last 28 years. I read another article where China and Russia military planes entered South Korean air, which they have never done before, where shots actually had to be fired. You turn the news on, and you look at the Persian Gulf and where Iran is going today.

To keep our men and women safe, you have got to make sure you have an investment, and that is exactly what we do. We build on the victory that we had before as we move forward.

We also make investments into the future. I am one who believes, and I know our Republican leader of the Budget Committee believes, too, that the greatest threat to America is the debt. That is why our budget is so important.

I understand the majority party can choose whether they want to do a budget or not. We chose to do budgets

when we were in the majority. I guess the decision is not this year, so we are ending up here in a compromise.

Now, I had wished in this compromise—but we are sitting in the minority, so, apparently, my vote does not count as much—we would want to offset any of this spending, find the savings in the waste, fraud, and abuse. It is not tough to find savings, so we offered more than \$500 billion in offsets.

Let that number sink in for one moment: \$500 billion.

Now, these were not draconian offsets that would have hurt the American public. I will give you one for an example.

We could have reduced fraud and refundable tax credits simply by requiring a Social Security number on the application. That would save \$38 billion itself. That is all we requested.

Now, just two spending cut ideas alone would double the amount of savings that we need. But, unfortunately, in a divided government, and the other side is in the majority, they decided not. Their refusal to discuss any long-term reforms to the programs that are actually driving the debt causes problems.

Now, as the gentleman knows, who is the leading Republican of the Budget Committee, when the Republicans took the majority in 2011 and we had to hand the gavel back—discretionary spending is what this body actually has the most control over, those 12 appropriations bills. When I had to hand the gavel back to the current Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, we were actually spending less than when she handed the gavel, in 2011, to John Boehner. That is a record I am proud of.

But the real driver of our debt is something that, in our majority, we tried to do something about. We passed it, but, unfortunately, it failed in the Senate. We still have that same desire.

When we were in the majority, we passed a budget that actually balanced. I know the first part was passing a budget. The law is actually to balance what we put forth. We said to the American public we were serious about this.

When I look today, this gives us stability for the next 2 years. This helps build the military, and it gives the protections for those that the Republicans would care most about that are sitting in law today.

So, no, it is not the bill I would write by myself—it is a compromise as we move forward—but it actually allows this process to work.

For too long, the American public has watched a continuing resolution, after a shutdown, after a continuing resolution. One of the biggest goals that we had being in the majority was actually to get the appropriations process working again, and we did. We are proud of the fact of moving that forward.

If I were to look at the appropriations process on the Democratic side, what they started to write without

having a budget first and without having an agreement first, I knew those bills would never become law. It was a lot of time wasted. But if I looked at those bills, what passed on the floor, and look at what is in this compromise deal, it is spending less money.

So did we succeed on turning it back some? Yes, we did, but not enough.

Today is a movement forward, but we have much more work to do, and given the opportunity, if our friend, who is the lead Republican of the Budget Committee, became the chair, I know we would have a budget; I know we would have an appropriations process; and I know that budget would be balanced. But until that day comes, we will continue to watch to make sure we spend less, we build our military, and we make tomorrow better than today.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arkansas has 3½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is not the most ideal situation to be in. As I reflect back on the many days I spent in my district—and I am about to go back there for the August recess, and I am going to circulate around my district and have some townhall meetings and engage in conversation. I know this subject is going to come up.

I already know that most people are going to say: Look, you guys have a spending problem up there in Washington. I hear that a lot, and I would agree with that. Very few people say that we have a revenue problem, but we do have a spending problem.

Mr. Speaker, you can bet your bottom dollar that I am going to be carrying this chart with me that I brought up earlier that shows the big difference between the mandatory side of Federal spending and what we are discussing here today about a \$1.37 trillion discretionary budget.

For all of the reasons that have been mentioned today by my colleagues, namely, national security, the ability to give our Pentagon certainty over the next 2 years as we continue to rebuild the readiness of the men and women who, on a voluntary basis, might I add, put their hand up and say, "I will go anywhere, anytime, to defend the principles of freedom"—they make that pledge willingly. They are not conscripted into the service. They make it on a voluntary basis.

The least that we should be able to do is to make sure that the resources are there that properly man the force, train the force, and equip the force so that we never, ever face a fight that is fair. We should always have the advantage.

So, for these reasons, Mr. Speaker, and with kind of a measure of hope that going through this process, as we have today, maybe it will inspire both sides of the aisle here and at the other

end of this building to work together to improve our processes so that it is the House and the Senate, collectively, doing the work that is prescribed as our fundamental duty in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, Mr. Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote on this bill.

Let’s put this issue behind us. Let’s move on to the more important things of our country, to include deficits and debt and the drivers that actually are making the situation much worse.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I think anyone watching this debate today, and certainly those of us who are here in the House, would say this is a very unusual moment.

We have a lot of debates in this body in which there is a great deal of unanimity and agreement, and usually that is over naming a post office or doing something that is totally non-controversial. But today is very different, because today we have truly, I think, respected the highest legacies of this body, that this body is supposed to be a Chamber where you bring very diverse opinions and perspectives to try and find common solutions to this country’s needs.

I think the compromise that we are hopefully going to approve today will serve as a model for what is possible in this body and in this Congress, because it truly is, in my 13 years, I think, a watershed moment. We are in a very, very divisive, polarized environment. We have come together to move this country forward.

I want to thank and commend the ranking member and my friend, Mr. WOMACK. I can’t imagine having a better relationship than I have with the ranking member, and I hope that he feels that, when he was chairman and I was ranking member, it was exactly the same way. Mr. WOMACK is a total class act and a distinguished Member, and it is an honor to work with him.

Mr. WOMACK. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YARMUTH. I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, let me say, for the record, that the feeling is mutual. I admire and appreciate the great relationship that Mr. YARMUTH and I have.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those comments.

Mr. Speaker, I also compliment and thank the Budget Committee staff, both majority and minority, for the work done on this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, our country is facing an infrastructure deficit; we face a skills and education deficit; and we face a growing income inequality crisis. A failure by Congress to make the necessary investments to promote growth and opportunity will leave our communities and country vulnerable.

Instead of the extreme cuts outlined in the President’s 2020 budget proposal, we need to be making bold investments in research and development, educating and training a strong workforce, improving public health, caring for our veterans, ensuring an accurate 2020 Census, and protecting our homeland.

The United States did not become an economic powerhouse and world leader by accident. Throughout our history, we made strong investments in our people, our economy, and our security that have allowed us to innovate and grow, while promoting broad-based economic opportunity.

This agreement will build on that legacy by raising the caps and lifting the debt ceiling, allowing Congress to move our Nation forward without leaving our communities behind.

I look forward to passing this bill in the House, and I encourage both the Senate and the White House to join us in ensuring that we meet our obligations to our Nation and to the American people.

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

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 519, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1515

VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 519, I call up the bill (H.R. 549) to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 519, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-28 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 549

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 “Venezuela TPS Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*For purposes of section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), Venezuela shall be treated as if it had been designated under subsection (b)(1)(C) of that section, subject to the provisions of this section.*

(2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—*The initial period of the designation referred to in paragraph (1) shall be for the 18-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.*

(b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—*As a result of the designation made under subsection (a), an alien who is a national of Venezuela is deemed to satisfy the requirements under paragraph (1) of section 244(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)), subject to paragraph (3) of such section, if the alien—*

(1) *has been continuously physically present in the United States since the date of the enactment of this Act;*

(2) *is admissible as an immigrant, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2)(A) of such section, and is not ineligible for temporary protected status under paragraph (2)(B) of such section; and*

(3) *registers for temporary protected status in a manner established by the Secretary of Homeland Security.*

(c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*The Secretary of Homeland Security shall give prior consent to travel abroad, in accordance with section 244(f)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(f)(3)), to an alien who is granted temporary protected status pursuant to the designation made under subsection (a) if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security that emergency and extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the alien require the alien to depart for a brief, temporary trip abroad.*

(2) TREATMENT UPON RETURN.—*An alien returning to the United States in accordance with an authorization described in paragraph (1) shall be treated as any other returning alien provided temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a).*

(d) FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*In addition to any other fee authorized by law, the Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to charge and collect a fee of \$360 for each application for temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act by a person who is only eligible for such status by reason of subsection (a).*

(2) WAIVER.—*The Secretary of Homeland Security shall permit aliens to apply for a waiver of any fees associated with filing an application referred to in paragraph (1).*

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled

by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on H.R. 549.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this should not be a partisan issue. Democrats and Republicans in both Houses of Congress support temporary protected status for Venezuelans. And, yet, when the Venezuelan TPS Act of 2019 was brought up on a suspension vote on Tuesday, it did not pass because most Republicans voted against it.

President Trump has repeatedly expressed alarm about the situation in Venezuela and support for the people, but he refuses to exercise his authority to designate Venezuela for TPS.

Today, we vote again on this to protect Venezuelans who are already in the United States, and I do hope my Republican colleagues will vote in support of it.

TPS is designed to provide a safe haven to people who are in the United States and unable to return to their home country. Venezuela, once one of Latin America's most prosperous countries, but currently bankrupt, is in the throes of a political crisis, and it is deserving of TPS designation.

Four million Venezuelans are outside their home country due to violence, hunger, and fear. Seven million people inside the country need humanitarian assistance to stay alive, and one in five Venezuelans have no access to clean water. This is exactly the type of humanitarian crisis that TPS was designed to address.

For this reason alone, we should stand in support of Venezuela TPS. Just 2 weeks ago, Acting Commissioner of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Ken Cuccinelli, informed Senator DICK DURBIN by letter that the administration was "continuing to monitor the situation" instead of designating Venezuela for TPS.

Even more surprising, the United States is still deporting Venezuelans, and in late 2018, DHS deported more Venezuelans than were resettled over the previous 5 years.

In other words, the Trump administration's Venezuela policy is incoherent at best, but as Members of Congress, we can act consistently with our concerns for the people of Venezuela by supporting this bill.

This bill provides us with the mechanism to offer temporary refuge to Ven-

ezuelans who are already in the U.S. Designating Venezuela for TPS will not only ensure the safety and security of thousands of Venezuelans, it will also demonstrate our bipartisan support of a legitimate, Democratic transition in Venezuela.

I commend my colleagues, DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL and DARREN SOTO, for their work and their commitment to the Venezuelan people, and I urge all of my colleagues to support the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019.

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

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman from California for her time and her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I think that Congress understands at this point that Venezuela is in crisis; that its people are in crisis under the evil fist of a tyrannical dictator who has stayed in power through fraudulent elections.

That is why the United States recognized Juan Guaido as interim President in a bipartisan fashion, from President Trump and leaders in the Senate, to leaders in the House, including our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI.

And that is why we have come together in a bipartisan fashion to file and pursue the passage of the Venezuela TPS Act. It was cointroduced with bipartisanship in its heart with Congressman DIAZ-BALART, who has joined me here today to try to get the job done and to get everybody together.

We have been joined by such amazing leaders like Congresswoman SHALALA—who we will hear from in a second—who helped on the Rules Committee; or with the help of Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, who helped to work with leadership; and DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL, a Congresswoman who helped us guide it through the Judiciary Committee, along with Congresswoman LOFGREN as well.

The administration has said positive statements about this. Just this past week, Secretary Pompeo said that this could happen. And we had Vice President PENCE in Florida saying that we need to act to help the Venezuelan people.

So I think we are going to have a second chance. We are going to have a chance tonight to vote on this again where we won't need a two-thirds vote, but it would say a lot about saying that the Socialist regime that Maduro has in Venezuela needs to go, and that we, as a Congress, stand together as Democrats and Republicans to condemn that; and to allow people who are here, over 170,000 in Florida, and over 1 million throughout the United States, to have a second chance.

Mr. Speaker, I really hope the House can come together and show our very best tonight with the vote.

According to USCIS, Venezuelans have become the largest group of asylum seekers applying for refuge in the U.S. Venezuelans made up one-third of all asylum claims, ahead of people from Central America, China, and all other countries. That is really significant considering the humanitarian crisis that all parties have recognized is at the border right now.

Only Venezuelans already in the United States who pose no risk to the safety or security of our country are eligible for TPS. The program already contains the most stringent criminal and public safety bars in all of immigration law, so we make sure that there are only those who are worthy.

Lastly, temporary protective status is the current law of the land.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for allowing me this time.

I want to start by commending—and I have done this before—by commending the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), for his relentless leadership on this issue.

He has a tradition of working in a bipartisan way. He has a tradition of working on things that are important to the people of Florida. This is not only important to the people of Florida, but when you talk about Venezuela, as the gentleman knows, this is important for the national security interests of the United States.

Now, the gentleman mentioned about the reality in Venezuela today. The reality of what we have seen because of this Socialist regime in Venezuela is what used to be one of the wealthiest countries in Latin America has now become a place where Venezuelans don't have access to, frankly, food and medicine.

Mr. Speaker, the most important thing is the repression that they are suffering under day in and day out. The heroic Venezuelan people are doing everything they can to recover their freedom.

I am proud of what this administration, the Trump administration, has done in support, in solidarity with the Venezuelan people, in support of the cause of freedom.

But while that is going on, a lot of us believe that it would be unacceptable to return Venezuelans to the situation that the gentleman, my colleague from Florida (Mr. SOTO), just mentioned, and what I just mentioned as well. And that is what this legislation is all about.

We all know that the real solution, the permanent real solution for Venezuela is very simple, and it can be boiled down to one word: freedom. The freedom of the Venezuelan people. And we are working, and the administration has done an amazing job, again, in

solidarity with the cause of freedom of the Venezuelan people. But in the meantime, Venezuelans cannot be returned to that dictatorship that we have spoken so much about.

So, again, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO). I want to thank also my south Florida colleagues. The gentleman mentioned a number of them. I see Congresswoman SHALALA is here, and so many others who have been working on this. Not only working on this, but also helping in the cause of freedom for the Venezuelan people.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, this is not to be confused with issues dealing with immigration, with a lot of controversial issues that are out there. This is to deal with the specific case of the Venezuelan people who are struggling under this repressive Socialist regime. While that is going on, we should not turn people back. That is what this bill does. So I would urge a favorable vote.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA).

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 549, the Venezuelan TPS Act of 2019.

And I thank my distinguished colleague from south Florida, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART, for his comments and for his coaching during my first year.

Venezuela was once the richest country in Latin America. Now, the economy, the health sector, the education system, and virtually every democratic institution is in ruins because of the Socialist policies of the evil Maduro regime.

Venezuela is experiencing the largest refugee crisis in the history of the Western Hemisphere. There are tens of thousands of Venezuelan-born residents in south Florida—17,000 in my district alone. My constituents cannot safely return to a country in chaos.

This is why TPS was created. As the vote on Tuesday demonstrated, this Congress is ready to allow Venezuelans to apply for TPS. TPS has bipartisan support in the House and in the Senate. It is time for the Senate to take this bill up.

TPS is a fundamental component in our approach to the crisis in Venezuela, but it will not alone solve the crisis. The United States and the international community must continue to put pressure on the regime to facilitate a peaceful change in leadership, because our ultimate goal is to secure a stable and peaceful transition of power for the Venezuelan people.

□ 1530

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I also want to just make a point that the temporary protected status program is the current law of the land. The program

was created for this exact purpose, to help people living under dire conditions, like Venezuelans who fear for their lives. It allows them to stay in the U.S. until the situation changes in their home country.

In this broader debate over immigration and over TPS, let us not sacrifice the Venezuelan people in the process but, rather, come together in a bipartisan fashion to show the very best of this Chamber in the interest of freedom and liberty, not only to Venezuela, but across the globe.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask the gentlewoman if she has any more speakers.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I have one additional speaker on the way.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 6½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 12½ minutes remaining.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes just to make a couple of additional comments.

First, Venezuela, which was a perfectly happy country, has been trashed by their government. They are now experiencing a 10 million percent annual increase in inflation, and 85 percent of the medicines needed for the major causes of morbidity in the country are unavailable in the pharmacies. They are in terrible shape.

I had occasion to go to the Colombian-Venezuelan border a short time ago, and I would like to tell you what I saw.

I saw, first, the skinniest refugees I have ever seen, people who were coming over for the day to get something to eat. The Catholic Church had organized food for people who have no food and who came across the river just to get a meal with their children. It was a tragic situation. To think that we would send someone who is temporarily here back to that catastrophe is really unthinkable.

As Mr. SOTO has mentioned, TPS was devised precisely for this type of situation where we have chaos in the native country of someone who is here temporarily, and it is unconscionable to send them back.

So we do know that the ultimate answer in Venezuela is not TPS. It is for the Venezuelan people to gain control of their government, to have a functioning democracy, to get rid of the socialist policies that have trashed the country. But, meanwhile, we do need to have this protection for the Venezuelans who are here.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that, without a word of complaint, the Colombians have accommodated 4 million Venezuelans who have left Venezuela and gone into Colombia. There has not

been a big turmoil in Colombia about accepting those refugees while this disaster is going on. Surely, the estimated 300,000 Venezuelans who are in the U.S. today would not pose a burden. They are able to support themselves, and we should not be sending them back to a terrible fate.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 12½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 4 minutes remaining.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am still waiting.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think the interesting thing here, and I will just say this—I am not ready to close—but at this point in time, I think one of the issues that has been said today, it should be noted that DHS has actually no mechanism to send anyone back to Venezuela right now. The channels for getting people back to Venezuela are not there, so deportation is not happening, especially now, because we have no mechanism to do that. So that is something later on, the merits of the bill either way.

I am not wanting to engage in a colloquy. I am just trying to see if the gentlewoman has her speaker here.

Ms. LOFGREN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. No, and I think given the time and the other bills behind us, why doesn't the gentleman close. I will close, and we will go to a vote.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I oppose this legislation which designates Venezuela for TPS status.

Under Federal law, the DHS Secretary may designate a country for TPS if the country is unable to adequately handle the return of nationals or circumstances prevent it, which is actually happening right now in many ways.

The TPS designation means nationals of a designated country inside the U.S. on the date of designation, legally or illegally, may apply to stay here and receive employment authorization. DHS has estimated that there are 270,000 such Venezuelan nationals currently in the country, and 123,000 are here illegally.

Generally, TPS is designated for an 18-month period, and the country may be redesignated for 18-month increments. But if the country no longer meets the conditions for TPS designation, the Secretary must terminate the designation.

Despite the fact Congress intended TPS to be a temporary protection, it has become permanent and automatically renewed. Contrary to Congress' intent, some countries have been designated for TPS for decades.

The current administration has followed the law and terminated TPS for certain nations, but, of course, that has not been left alone. It has been stymied in the court.

I oppose H.R. 549, but the Venezuelan people are in a dire situation, and thanks to the socialist policies of Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro, I pray for regime change in Venezuela.

If Congress is, nevertheless, inclined to statutorily designate Venezuela for TPS, then we should not ensure renewal is automatic. If we do not do that, we can continue the same broken TPS designation process. No future administration will terminate the designations, and 25 years from now, Members will call for the green cards for those who are here on TPS.

I must also point out the hypocrisy of designating a country for temporary protected status. The majority recently passed legislation to create a green card path for 417,000 aliens in the country on a temporary protected status, some of which were 20 years for a volcano—not exactly something that is permanent.

We also may as well remove the word “temporary” from TPS statute and hand over the green cards right now.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 549, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that everyone will vote for this bill.

It is, unfortunately, the case that the United States has deported Venezuelans in late 2018. More Venezuelans were deported than were resettled.

It is important that, while this country, Venezuela, is really in meltdown, we don't take vulnerable people and send them back there. That is what TPS is all about. This bill is simple.

I thank Mr. SOTO, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL for their efforts, along with those of many others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 519, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 549 is postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3352) to provide for certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3352

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 “Department of State Authorization Act of 2019”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sec. 101. Sense of Congress on importance of Department of State's work.

Sec. 102. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Sec. 103. Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

Sec. 104. Bureau of Consular Affairs; Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

Sec. 105. Office of International Disability Rights.

Sec. 106. Office of Global Women's Issues.

Sec. 107. Special appointments.

Sec. 108. Anti-piracy information sharing.

Sec. 109. Importance of foreign affairs training to national security.

Sec. 110. Classification and assignment of Foreign Service officers.

Sec. 111. Energy diplomacy and security within the Department of State.

Sec. 112. Passport fees.

Sec. 113. United States diplomacy center.

Sec. 114. Extension of period for reimbursement of fishermen for costs incurred from the illegal seizure and detention of U.S.-flag fishing vessels by foreign governments.

Sec. 115. Art in embassies.

Sec. 116. Amendment or repeal of reporting requirements.

Sec. 117. Reporting on implementation of GAO recommendations.

Sec. 118. Office of Global Criminal Justice.

TITLE II—EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 201. Embassy security, construction, and maintenance.

Sec. 202. Standard design in capital construction.

Sec. 203. Capital construction transparency.

Sec. 204. Contractor performance information.

Sec. 205. Growth projections for new embassies and consulates.

Sec. 206. Long-range planning process.

Sec. 207. Value engineering and risk assessment.

Sec. 208. Business volume.

Sec. 209. Embassy security requests and deficiencies.

Sec. 210. Overseas security briefings.

Sec. 211. Contracting methods in capital construction.

Sec. 212. Competition in embassy construction.

Sec. 213. Statement of policy.

Sec. 214. Definitions.

TITLE III—PERSONNEL ISSUES

Sec. 301. Defense Base Act insurance waivers.

Sec. 302. Study on Foreign Service allowances.

Sec. 303. Science and technology fellowships.

Sec. 304. Travel for separated families.

Sec. 305. Home leave travel for separated families.

Sec. 306. Sense of Congress regarding certain fellowship programs.

Sec. 307. Technical correction.

Sec. 308. Foreign Service awards.

Sec. 309. Diplomatic programs.

Sec. 310. Sense of Congress regarding veterans employment at the Department of State.

Sec. 311. Employee assignment restrictions and preclusions.

Sec. 312. Recall and reemployment of career members.

Sec. 313. Strategic staffing plan for the Department.

Sec. 314. Consulting services.

Sec. 315. Incentives for critical posts.

Sec. 316. Extension of authority for certain accountability review boards.

Sec. 317. Foreign service suspension without pay.

Sec. 318. Foreign Affairs Manual and Foreign Affairs Handbook changes.

Sec. 319. Waiver authority for individual occupational requirements of certain positions.

Sec. 320. Standardizing Department parental leave policies.

Sec. 321. Appointment of employees to the Global Engagement Center.

Sec. 322. Rest and recuperation and overseas operations leave for Federal employees.

TITLE IV—A DIVERSE WORKFORCE: RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND PROMOTION

Sec. 401. Definitions.

Sec. 402. Collection, analysis, and dissemination of workforce data.

Sec. 403. Exit interviews for workforce.

Sec. 404. Recruitment and retention.

Sec. 405. Leadership engagement and accountability.

Sec. 406. Professional development opportunities and tools.

Sec. 407. Examination and oral assessment for the Foreign Service.

Sec. 408. Payne fellowship authorization.

Sec. 409. Voluntary participation.

TITLE V—INFORMATION SECURITY

Sec. 501. Definitions.

Sec. 502. Information system security.

Sec. 503. Prohibition on contracting with certain telecommunications providers.

Sec. 504. Preserving records of electronic communications conducted related to official duties of positions in the public trust of the American people.

Sec. 505. Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) series and declassification.

Sec. 506. Vulnerability Disclosure Policy and Bug Bounty Pilot Program.

TITLE VI—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Sec. 601. Short title.

Sec. 602. Avoiding duplication of programs and efforts.

Sec. 603. Improving research and evaluation of public diplomacy.

Sec. 604. Permanent reauthorization of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

Sec. 605. Streamlining of support functions.

Sec. 606. Guidance for closure of public diplomacy facilities.

Sec. 607. Definitions.

TITLE VII—COMBATING PUBLIC CORRUPTION

Sec. 701. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 702. Annual assessment.

Sec. 703. Transparency and accountability.

Sec. 704. Designation of embassy anti-corruption points of contact.

Sec. 705. Reporting requirements.

Sec. 706. Foreign investments and national security.

TITLE VIII—MATTERS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Sec. 801. Short title.

Sec. 802. Security assistance defined.

Subtitle A—Reform Relating to Security Assistance

Sec. 811. Organizational reform.

Sec. 812. Workforce development.

Sec. 813. Security assistance planning.

Sec. 814. Interagency coordination of security assistance, transfers, and security cooperation.

Sec. 815. Rule of construction.

Subtitle B—Foreign Military Assistance

Sec. 821. Strategic allocation of excess defense articles.

Sec. 822. Modification of purposes for which military sales by the United States are authorized.

Sec. 823. Return of defense articles.

Sec. 824. Requirements relating to exemptions for licensing of defense items.

Sec. 825. Amendment to general provisions.

Sec. 826. Technical amendments to Arms Export Control Act.

Sec. 827. Sense of Congress on licensing under United States arms export control programs.

Sec. 828. Extension of war reserve stockpile authority.

Sec. 829. Peacekeeping operations and other national security programs.

Sec. 830. Other amendments to military assistance authorities.

Sec. 831. Repeal of reports.

Sec. 832. Defense trade controls registration fees.

Sec. 833. Withholding of assistance to units of foreign security forces that engaged in sexual exploitation or abuse in peacekeeping operations.

Sec. 834. Modification to limitations on assistance relating to human rights.

Subtitle C—Studies on Authorities and Programs

Sec. 841. Requirement for study by Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

Sec. 842. Requirement for independent study of existing security assistance authorities.

TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 901. Case-Zablocki Act reform.

Sec. 902. Limitation on assistance to countries in default.

Sec. 903. Prohibition on assistance to governments supporting international terrorism.

Sec. 904. Establishing a coordinator for ISIS detainee issues.

Sec. 905. Sean and David Goldman Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 amendment.

Sec. 906. Modification of authorities of Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.

TITLE X—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

Sec. 1001. Determination of budgetary effects.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—Unless otherwise specified, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **DEPARTMENT.**—Unless otherwise specified, the term “Department” means the Department of State.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—Unless otherwise specified, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

TITLE I—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEC. 101. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S WORK.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States global engagement is key to a stable and prosperous world;

(2) United States leadership is indispensable in light of the many complex and interconnected threats facing the United States and the world;

(3) diplomacy and development are critical tools of national power, and full deployment of these tools is vital to United States national security;

(4) challenges such as the global refugee and migration crises, terrorism, historic famine and food insecurity, and fragile or repressive societies cannot be addressed without sustained and robust United States diplomatic and development leadership;

(5) the United States Government must use all of the instruments of national security and foreign policy at its disposal to protect United States citizens, promote United States interests and values, and support global stability and prosperity;

(6) United States security and prosperity depend on having partners and allies that share our interests and values, and these partnerships are nurtured and our shared interests and values are promoted through United States diplomatic engagement, security cooperation, economic statecraft, and assistance that helps further economic development, good governance, including the rule of law and democratic institutions, and the development of shared responses to natural and humanitarian disasters;

(7) as the United States Government agencies primarily charged with conducting diplomacy and development, the Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) require sustained and robust funding to carry out this important work, which is essential to our ability to project United States leadership and values and to advance the United States interests around the world;

(8) the work of the Department and USAID makes the United States and the world safer and more prosperous by alleviating global poverty and hunger, fighting HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, strengthening alliances, expanding educational opportunities for women and girls, promoting good governance and democracy, supporting anti-corruption efforts, driving economic development and trade, preventing armed conflicts and humanitarian crises, and creating American jobs and export opportunities;

(9) the Department and USAID are vital national security agencies, whose work is critical to the projection of United States power and leadership worldwide, and without which Americans would be less safe, our economic power would be diminished, and global stability and prosperity would suffer;

(10) investing in diplomacy and development before conflicts break out saves American lives while also being cost-effective; and

(11) the contributions of personnel working at the Department and USAID are extraordinarily valuable and allow the United States to maintain its leadership around the world.

SEC. 102. BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR.

Paragraph (2) of section 1(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end the following new sentence: “All special envoys, ambassadors, and coordinators located within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor shall report directly to the Assistant Secretary.”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(A) by striking “section” and inserting “sections 116 and”; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “(commonly referred to as the annual ‘Country Reports on Human Rights Practices’)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(C) **AUTHORITIES.**—In addition to the duties, functions, and responsibilities specified in this paragraph, the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor is authorized to—

“(i) promote democracy and actively support human rights throughout the world;

“(ii) promote the rule of law and good governance throughout the world;

“(iii) strengthen, empower, and protect civil society representatives, programs, and organizations, and facilitate their ability to engage in dialogue with governments and other civil society entities;

“(iv) work with regional bureaus to ensure adequate personnel at diplomatic posts are assigned responsibilities relating to advancing democracy, human rights, labor rights, women’s equal participation in society, and the rule of law, with particular attention paid to adequate oversight and engagement on such issues by senior officials at such posts;

“(v) review and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding the proposed transfer of—

“(I) defense articles and defense services authorized under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) or the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.); and

“(II) military items listed on the ‘600 series’ of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations;

“(vi) coordinate programs and activities that protect and advance the exercise of human rights and internet freedom in cyberspace; and

“(vii) implement other relevant policies and provisions of law.

“(D) **EFFICIENCY.**—The Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor shall take whatever actions may be necessary to minimize the duplication of efforts within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

“(E) **LOCAL OVERSIGHT.**—United States missions, to the extent practicable, should assist in exercising oversight authority and coordinate with the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor to ensure that funds are appropriately used and comply with anti-corruption practices.”.

SEC. 103. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)) is amended—

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

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

“(3) ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be in the Department of State an Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, who shall be responsible to the Secretary of State for all matters, programs, and related activities pertaining to international narcotics, anti-crime, and law enforcement affairs in the conduct of foreign policy by the Department, including, as appropriate, leading the coordination of programs carried out by United States Government agencies abroad, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

“(B) AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.—The Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to international narcotics, anti-crime, and law enforcement affairs in the conduct of foreign policy, including programs carried out by other United States Government agencies when such programs pertain to the following matters:

“(i) Combating international narcotics production and trafficking.

“(ii) Strengthening foreign justice systems, including judicial and prosecutorial capacity, appeals systems, law enforcement agencies, prison systems, and the sharing of recovered assets.

“(iii) Training and equipping foreign police, border control, other government officials, and other civilian law enforcement authorities for anti-crime purposes, including ensuring that no foreign security unit or member of such unit shall receive such assistance from the United States Government absent appropriate vetting.

“(iv) Ensuring the inclusion of human rights and women’s participation issues in law enforcement programs, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, and other senior officials in regional and thematic bureaus and offices.

“(v) Combating, in conjunction with other relevant bureaus of the Department, all forms of transnational organized crime, including illicit trafficking in human beings, arms, wildlife, and cultural property, migrant smuggling, corruption, money laundering, the illicit smuggling of bulk cash, the licit use of financial systems for malign purposes, and other new and emerging forms of crime.

“(vi) Identifying and responding to global corruption, including strengthening the capacity of foreign government institutions responsible for addressing financial crimes and engaging with multilateral organizations responsible for monitoring and supporting foreign governments’ anti-corruption efforts.

“(C) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—In addition to the responsibilities specified in subparagraph (B), the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs shall also—

“(i) carry out timely and substantive consultation with chiefs of mission and, as appropriate, the heads of other United States Government agencies to ensure effective coordination of all international narcotics and law enforcement programs carried out overseas by the Department and such other agencies;

“(ii) coordinate with the Office of National Drug Control Policy to ensure lessons learned from other United States Government agencies are available to the Bureau of

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department;

“(iii) develop standard requirements for monitoring and evaluation of Bureau programs, including metrics for success that do not rely solely on the amounts of illegal drugs that are produced or seized;

“(iv) in coordination with the Secretary of State, annually certify in writing to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that United States law enforcement personnel posted abroad whose activities are funded to any extent by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs are complying with section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3927); and

“(v) carry out such other relevant duties as the Secretary may assign.”

(b) MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT.—Subsection (a) of section 489 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291h) is amended by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph:

“(9) A separate section that contains an identification of all United States Government-supported units funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and any Bureau-funded operations by such units in which United States law enforcement personnel have been physically present.”

SEC. 104. BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS; BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION.

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

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsections:

“(g) BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS.—There is in the Department of State the Bureau of Consular Affairs, which shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs

“(h) BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION.—There is in the Department of State the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, which shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration.”

SEC. 105. OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There should be established in the Department an Office of International Disability Rights (referred to in this section as the “Office”).

(b) DUTIES.—The Office should—

(1) seek to ensure that all United States foreign operations are accessible to, and inclusive of, persons with disabilities;

(2) promote the human rights and full participation in international development activities of all persons with disabilities;

(3) promote disability inclusive practices and the training of Department staff on soliciting quality programs that are fully inclusive of people with disabilities;

(4) represent the United States in diplomatic and multilateral fora on matters relevant to the rights of persons with disabilities, and work to raise the profile of disability across a broader range of organizations contributing to international development efforts;

(5) conduct regular consultation with civil society organizations working to advance international disability rights and empower persons with disabilities internationally;

(6) consult with other relevant offices at the Department that are responsible for drafting annual reports documenting progress on human rights, including, wherever applicable, references to instances of

discrimination, prejudice, or abuses of persons with disabilities; and

(7) advise the Bureau of Human Resources Development of the Department regarding the hiring and recruitment and overseas practices of civil service employees and Foreign Service officers with disabilities and their family members with chronic medical conditions or disabilities.

(c) SUPERVISION.—The Office may be headed by—

(1) a senior advisor to the appropriate Assistant Secretary; or

(2) an officer exercising significant authority who reports to the President or Secretary, appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(d) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary should direct Ambassadors at Large, Representatives, Special Envoys, and coordinators working on human rights to consult with the Office to promote the human rights and full participation in international development activities of all persons with disabilities.

SEC. 106. OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN’S ISSUES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There should be established an Office of Global Women’s Issues (referred to in this section as the “Office”), which may be placed within the organizational structure of the Department at the discretion of the Secretary.

(b) PURPOSE.—The Office should coordinate efforts of the United States Government, as directed by the Secretary, regarding gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls in United States foreign policy.

(c) DUTIES.—The Office should—

(1) serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary regarding gender equality, women’s and girls’ empowerment, and violence against women and girls as a priority of United States foreign policy;

(2) represent the United States in diplomatic and multilateral fora on matters relevant to the status of women and girls;

(3) advise the Secretary and provide input on all activities, policies, programs, and funding relating to gender equality and the advancement of women and girls internationally for all bureaus and offices of the Department and in the international programs of all other Federal agencies;

(4) work to ensure that efforts to advance gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment are fully integrated into the programs, structures, processes, and capacities of all bureaus and offices of the Department and in the international programs of other Federal agencies; and

(5) conduct regular consultation with civil society organizations working to advance gender equality and empower women and girls internationally.

(d) SUPERVISION.—The Office should be headed by an Ambassador-at-large for Global Women’s Issues.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a report or briefing regarding this section.

SEC. 107. SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS.

(a) REPORT ON POSITIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) A description of the duties, responsibilities, and number of staff of each existing Special Envoy, Special Representative, Special Coordinator, Special Negotiator, Envoy, Representative, Coordinator, Special Advisor, and other similar position at the Department.

(2) Recommendations regarding whether to maintain in the Department each such position, including those listed in the report submitted by the Secretary to the Committee

on Foreign Relations of the Senate on April 14, 2017, pursuant to section 418 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323), that are not expressly authorized by a provision of law enacted by Congress.

(3) Justifications supporting each of the Secretary's recommendations under paragraph (2).

(b) **ADVICE AND CONSENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the submission of the report required under subsection (a), the President shall submit the name of each Special Envoy, Special Representative, Special Coordinator, Special Negotiator, Envoy, Representative, Coordinator, Special Advisor, or other person occupying a similar position at the Department exercising significant authority pursuant to the laws of the United States that is not expressly authorized by a provision of law enacted by Congress who is included in such report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate to seek the advice and consent of the Senate.

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITIONS.**—Nothing in this section may be construed as prohibiting the establishment or maintenance of any Special Envoy, Special Representative, Special Coordinator, Special Negotiator, Envoy, Representative, Coordinator, Special Advisor, or other similar position at the Department exercising significant authority pursuant to the laws of the United States if the name of the appointee for each such position is submitted to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, to seek the advice and consent of the Senate, not later than 90 days after each such appointment.

(d) **LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS.**—The Secretary may maintain or establish a position with the title of Special Envoy, Special Representative, Special Coordinator, Special Negotiator, Special Advisor, or a similar position not exercising significant authority pursuant to the laws of the United States for not longer than 180 days if the Secretary, not later than 15 days before the appointment of a person to such a position, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notification that includes the following:

(1) A certification that the position is not expected to demand the exercise of significant authority pursuant to the laws of the United States.

(2) A description of the duties and purpose of the position.

(3) The rationale for giving the specific title to the position.

(e) **RENEWAL OF TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT.**—Nothing in this section may be construed as prohibiting the Secretary from renewing for a period not to exceed 180 days any position maintained or established under subsection (d) if the Secretary complies with the notification requirements contained in such subsection.

(f) **FUNDING RESTRICTIONS.**—

(1) **POSITIONS NOT SUBMITTED FOR ADVICE AND CONSENT.**—No funds may be authorized to be appropriated for—

(A) any Special Envoy, Special Representative, Special Coordinator, Special Negotiator, Envoy, Representative, Coordinator, Special Advisor, or other similar position at the Department exercising significant authority pursuant to the laws of the United States if the name of the person appointed to such position has not been submitted to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate for the advice and consent of the Senate in accordance with subsection (b); or

(B) any staff or resources related to such a position until the person appointed to such position has been submitted to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate for the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) **TEMPORARY POSITIONS.**—No funds may be authorized to be appropriated for any position described in subsection (d) or for any staff or resources related to such position unless the Secretary has complied with the notification requirements under such subsection.

(3) **FISCAL YEAR 2020.**—The restrictions described in this subsection shall not apply in fiscal year 2020 to positions or associated staff and resources for which funding is expressly appropriated for such fiscal year in an Act of Congress.

(g) **CONFIRMATION FOR AUTHORIZED POSITIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No Special Envoy, Special Representative, Special Coordinator, Special Negotiator, Envoy, Representative, Coordinator, Special Advisor, or other similar position at the Department exercising significant authority pursuant to the laws of the United States that is authorized by an Act of Congress (except the position authorized by section 621 of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (subtitle B of title VI of Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 6901 note)) may be appointed without the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) **FISCAL YEAR 2020.**—The restriction described in paragraph (1) shall not apply in fiscal year 2020 to positions or associated staff and resources for which funding is expressly appropriated for such fiscal year in an Act of Congress.

(h) **ELIMINATION OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICY COORDINATOR FOR BURMA.**—

(1) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(A) Congress established the Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma in July 2008 at a time when the United States did not maintain full diplomatic relations with Burma and had not appointed an Ambassador to Burma in 18 years.

(B) In 2012, the United States re-established full diplomatic relations with Burma and appointed a United States Ambassador to Burma who, along with the Secretary of State, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, and other United States Government officials, represents the United States' interests in Burma.

(2) **REPEAL.**—Section 7 of the Tom Lantos Block Burmese Jade (Junta's Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-286; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to the establishment of a Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 108. ANTI-PIRACY INFORMATION SHARING.

The Secretary is authorized to provide for the participation by the United States in the Information Sharing Centre located in Singapore, as established by the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).

SEC. 109. IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRAINING TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department is a crucial national security agency, whose employees, both Foreign and Civil Service, require the best possible training at every stage of their careers to prepare them to promote and defend United States national interests and the health and safety of United States citizens abroad;

(2) the Secretary should explore establishing a "training float" requiring that a certain percentage of the Foreign Service shall be in long-term training at any given time;

(3) the Department's Foreign Service Institute should seek to substantially increase its educational and training offerings to Department personnel, including developing new and innovative educational and training courses, methods, programs, and opportunities; and

(4) consistent with existing Department gift acceptance authority and other applicable laws, the Department and Foreign Service Institute should seek and accept funds and other resources from foundations, not-for-profit corporations, and other appropriate sources to help the Department and the Institute accomplish the goals specified in paragraph (3).

SEC. 110. CLASSIFICATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.

The Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended—

(1) in section 501 (22 U.S.C. 3981), by inserting "If a position designated under this section is unfilled for more than 365 calendar days, such position may be filled, as appropriate, on a temporary basis, in accordance with section 309." after "Positions designated under this section are excepted from the competitive service."; and

(2) in paragraph (2) of section 502(a) (22 U.S.C. 3982(a)), by inserting ", or domestically, in a position working on issues relating to a particular country or geographic area," after "geographic area".

SEC. 111. ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (c) of section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a), as amended by section 103 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) (as redesignated pursuant to such section 103) as paragraph (5); and

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

"(4) **ENERGY RESOURCES.**—

"(A) **AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—Subject to the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1), there is authorized to be established in the Department of State an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources.

"(B) **PERSONNEL.**—The Secretary of State shall ensure that there are sufficient personnel dedicated to energy matters within the Department of State whose responsibilities shall include—

"(i) formulating and implementing international policies aimed at protecting and advancing United States energy security interests by effectively managing United States bilateral and multilateral relations;

"(ii) ensuring that analyses of the national security implications of global energy and environmental developments are reflected in the decision making process within the Department;

"(iii) incorporating energy security priorities into the activities of the Department;

"(iv) coordinating energy activities of the Department with relevant Federal departments and agencies; and

"(v) working internationally to—

"(I) support the development of energy resources and the distribution of such resources for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners for their energy security and economic development needs;

"(II) promote availability of diversified energy supplies and a well-functioning global market for energy resources, technologies, and expertise for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners;

"(III) resolve international disputes regarding the exploration, development, production, or distribution of energy resources;

"(IV) support the economic and commercial interests of United States persons operating in the energy markets of foreign countries;

"(V) support and coordinate international efforts to alleviate energy poverty;

“(VI) leading the United States commitment to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative;

“(VII) coordinating within the Department and with relevant Federal departments and agencies on developing and implementing international energy-related sanctions; and

“(VIII) coordinating energy security and other relevant functions within the Department currently undertaken by—

“(aa) the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs;

“(bb) the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; and

“(cc) other offices within the Department of State.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 931 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17371) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

SEC. 112. PASSPORT FEES.

Paragraph (2) of section 1(b) of the Passport Act of June 4, 1920 (22 U.S.C. 214(b)) is amended by striking “not” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “be exercised beginning on the date of the enactment of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2019.”

SEC. 113. UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY CENTER.

Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 is amended by adding after section 63 (22 U.S.C. 2735) the following new section:

“SEC. 64. UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY CENTER.

“(a) ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) **SUPPORT AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of State is authorized to provide, by contract, grant, or otherwise, for the performance of appropriate museum visitor and educational outreach services and related events, including organizing programs and conference activities, museum shop services and food services in the public exhibition and related space utilized by the center for United States diplomacy.

“(2) **RECOVERY OF COSTS.**—The Secretary of State is authorized to recover any revenues generated under the authority of paragraph (1) for visitor and outreach services and related events referred to in such paragraph, including fees for use of facilities at a center for United States diplomacy. Any such revenues may be retained as a recovery of the costs of operating the Center.

“(b) **DISPOSITION OF UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY CENTER DOCUMENTS, ARTIFACTS, AND OTHER ARTICLES.**—

“(1) **PROPERTY.**—All historic documents, artifacts, or other articles permanently acquired by the Department of State and determined by the Secretary of State to be suitable for display by the center for United States diplomacy shall be considered to be the property of the United States Government and shall be subject to disposition solely in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) **SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.**—Whenever the Secretary of State makes the determination described in paragraph (3) with respect to a document, artifact, or other article under paragraph (1), the Secretary may sell at fair market value, trade, or transfer such document, artifact, or other article without regard to the requirements of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code. The proceeds of any such sale may be used solely for the advancement of the mission of the center for United States diplomacy and may not be used for any purpose other than the acquisition and direct care of the collections of the center.

“(3) **DETERMINATIONS PRIOR TO SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.**—The determination described

in this paragraph with respect to a document, artifact, or other article under paragraph (1), is a determination that—

“(A) such document, artifact, or other article no longer serves to further the purposes of the center for United States diplomacy as set forth in the collections management policy of the center;

“(B) the sale, trade, or transfer of such document, artifact, or other article would serve to maintain the standards of the collection of the center; or

“(C) sale, trade, or transfer of such document, artifact, or other article would be in the best interests of the United States.

“(4) **LOANS.**—In addition to the authorization under paragraph (2) relating to the sale, trade, or transfer of documents, artifacts, or other articles under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may loan such documents, artifacts, or other articles, when not needed for use or display by the center for United States diplomacy to the Smithsonian Institution or a similar institution for repair, study, or exhibition.”

SEC. 114. EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF FISHERMEN FOR COSTS INCURRED FROM THE ILLEGAL SEIZURE AND DETENTION OF U.S.-FLAG FISHING VESSELS BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (e) of section 7 of the Fishermen’s Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1977) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) **AMOUNTS.**—Payments may be made under this section only to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.”

(b) **RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.**—

(1) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply as if the date specified in subsection (e) of section 7 of the Fishermen’s Protective Act of 1967, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, were the day after such date of enactment.

(2) **AGREEMENTS AND PAYMENTS.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) enter into agreements pursuant to section 7 of the Fishermen’s Protective Act of 1967 for any claims to which such section would otherwise apply but for the date specified in subsection (e) of such section, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) make payments in accordance with agreements entered into pursuant to such section if any such payments have not been made as a result of the expiration of the date specified in such section, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 115. ART IN EMBASSIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purchase of any piece of art for the purposes of installation or display in any embassy, consulate, or other foreign mission of the United States if the purchase price of such piece of art is in excess of \$50,000, unless such purchase is subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the appropriate congressional committees.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the costs of the Art in Embassies Program for each of fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014.

(c) **SUNSET.**—This section shall terminate on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “art” includes paintings, sculptures, photographs, industrial design, and craft art.

SEC. 116. AMENDMENT OR REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **BURMA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 570 of Public Law 104-208 is amended—

(A) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) **MULTILATERAL STRATEGY.**—The President shall develop, in coordination with members of ASEAN and other likeminded countries, a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to bring about further democratic consolidation in Burma and improve human rights practices and the quality of life in Burma, including the development of a dialogue leading to genuine national reconciliation.”; and

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “six months” and inserting “year”;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (7); and

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

“(3) improvements in human rights practices;

“(4) progress toward broad-based and inclusive economic growth;

“(5) progress toward genuine national reconciliation;

“(6) progress on improving the quality of life of the Burmese people, including progress relating to market reforms, living standards, labor standards, use of forced labor in the tourism industry, and environmental quality; and”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to the first report required under subsection (d) of section 570 of Public Law 104-208 that is required after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **REPEALS.**—The following provisions of law are hereby repealed:

(1) Subsection (b) of section 804 of Public Law 101-246.

(2) Section 6 of Public Law 104-45.

(3) Section 406 of Public Law 101-246 (22 U.S.C. 2414a).

(4) Subsection (c) of section 702 of Public Law 96-465 (22 U.S.C. 4022).

SEC. 117. REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF GAO RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that lists all of the Government Accountability Office’s recommendations relating to the Department that have not been fully implemented.

(b) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary submits the report under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that identifies any discrepancies between the list of recommendations included in such report and the Government Accountability Office’s list of outstanding recommendations for the Department.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the submission of the Comptroller General’s report under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the implementation status of each recommendation from the Government Accountability Office included in the report submitted under subsection (a).

(2) **JUSTIFICATION.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a detailed justification for each decision not to fully implement a recommendation or to implement a recommendation in a different manner than specified by the Government Accountability Office;

(B) a timeline for the full implementation of any recommendation the Secretary has decided to adopt, but has not yet fully implemented; and

(C) an explanation for any discrepancies included in the Comptroller General report submitted under subsection (b).

(d) FORM.—The information required in each report under this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, to the maximum extent practicable, but may be included in a classified annex to the extent necessary.

SEC. 118. OFFICE OF GLOBAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There should be established within the Department an Office of Global Criminal Justice (referred to in this section as the “Office”), which may be placed within the organizational structure of the Department at the discretion of the Secretary.

(b) DUTIES.—The Office should carry out the following:

(1) Advise the Secretary and other relevant senior officials on issues related to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

(2) Assist in formulating United States policy on the prevention of, responses to, and accountability for mass atrocities.

(3) Coordinate United States Government positions relating to the international and hybrid courts currently prosecuting persons responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity anywhere in the world.

(4) Work with other governments, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations, as appropriate, to establish and assist international and domestic commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions, and tribunals to investigate, document, and prosecute atrocities in every region of the globe.

(5) Coordinate the deployment of diplomatic, legal, economic, military, and other tools to help expose the truth, judge those responsible, protect and assist victims, enable reconciliation, deter atrocities, and build the rule of law.

(6) Provide advice and expertise on transitional justice to United States personnel operating in conflict and post-conflict environments.

(7) Act as a point of contact for international, hybrid, and mixed tribunals exercising jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed around the world.

(8) Represent the Department on any inter-agency whole-of-government coordinating entities addressing genocide and other mass atrocities.

(9) Perform any additional duties and exercise such powers as the Secretary of State may prescribe.

(c) SUPERVISION.—The Office should be led by an Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice.

TITLE II—EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION

SEC. 201. EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE.

For “Embassy Security, Construction, and Maintenance”, there is authorized to be appropriated \$1,987,211,000 for fiscal year 2020.

SEC. 202. STANDARD DESIGN IN CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department’s Bureau of Overseas Building Operations (OBO) or successor office should give appropriate consideration to standardization in construction, in which each new United States embassy and consulate starts with a standard design and keeps customization to a minimum.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out any new United States embassy compound or new consulate compound

project that utilizes a non-standard design, including those projects that are in the design or pre-design phase as of the date of the enactment of this Act, only in consultation with the appropriate congressional committees. The Secretary shall provide the appropriate congressional committees, for each such project, the following documentation:

(1) A comparison of the estimated full lifecycle costs of the project to the estimated full lifecycle costs of such project if it were to use a standard design.

(2) A comparison of the estimated completion date of such project to the estimated completion date of such project if it were to use a standard design.

(3) A comparison of the security of the completed project to the security of such completed project if it were to use a standard design.

(4) A justification for the Secretary’s selection of a non-standard design over a standard design for such project.

(5) A written explanation if any of the documentation necessary to support the comparisons and justification, as the case may be, described in paragraphs (1) through (4) cannot be provided.

(c) SUNSET.—The consultation requirement under subsection (b) shall expire on the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 203. CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 118 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C. 304) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “ANNUAL REPORT ON EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION COSTS” and inserting “BIANNUAL REPORT ON OVERSEAS CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS”; and

(2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following new subsections:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and every 180 days thereafter until the date that is four years after such date of enactment, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive report regarding all ongoing overseas capital construction projects and major embassy security upgrade projects.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include the following with respect to each ongoing overseas capital construction project and major embassy security upgrade project:

“(1) The initial cost estimate as specified in the proposed allocation of capital construction and maintenance funds required by the Committees on Appropriations for Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs.

“(2) The current cost estimate.

“(3) The value of each request for equitable adjustment received by the Department to date.

“(4) The value of each certified claim received by the Department to date.

“(5) The value of any usage of the project’s contingency fund to date and the value of the remainder of the project’s contingency fund.

“(6) An enumerated list of each request for adjustment and certified claim that remains outstanding or unresolved.

“(7) An enumerated list of each request for equitable adjustment and certified claim that has been fully adjudicated or that the Department has settled, and the final dollar amount of each adjudication or settlement.

“(8) The date of estimated completion specified in the proposed allocation of capital construction and maintenance funds required by the Committees on Appropriations not later than 45 days after the date of the

enactment of an Act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs.

“(9) The current date of estimated completion.”.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The first report required under subsection (a) of section 118 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (as amended by this section) shall include an annex regarding all overseas capital construction projects and major embassy security upgrade projects completed during the 10-year period ending on December 31, 2018, including, for each such project, the elements specified in subsection (b) of such section 118.

SEC. 204. CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.

(a) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.—The Secretary shall complete all contractor performance evaluations required by subpart 42.15 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation for those contractors engaged in construction of new embassy or new consulate compounds by October 1, 2021.

(b) PRIORITIZATION SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a prioritization system for clearing the current backlog of required evaluations referred to in subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The system required under paragraph (1) should prioritize the evaluations as follows:

(A) Project completion evaluations should be prioritized over annual evaluations.

(B) Evaluations for relatively large contracts should have priority.

(C) Evaluations that would be particularly informative for the awarding of government contracts should have priority.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the Department’s plan for completing all evaluations by October 1, 2021, in accordance with subsection (a) and the prioritization system developed pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) contractors deciding whether to bid on Department contracts would benefit from greater understanding of the Department as a client; and

(2) the Department should develop a forum where contractors can comment on the Department’s project management performance.

SEC. 205. GROWTH PROJECTIONS FOR NEW EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each new United States embassy compound (NEC) and new consulate compound project (NCC) in or not yet in the design phase as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department shall project growth over the estimated life of the facility using all available and relevant data, including the following:

(1) Relevant historical trends for Department personnel and personnel from other agencies represented at the NEC or NCC that is to be constructed.

(2) An analysis of the tradeoffs between risk and the needs of United States Government policy conducted as part of the most recent Vital Presence Validation Process, if applicable.

(3) Reasonable assumptions about the strategic importance of the NEC or NCC, as the case may be, over the life of the building at issue.

(4) Any other data that would be helpful in projecting the future growth of NEC or NCC.

(b) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The head of each Federal agency represented at a United

States embassy or consulate shall provide to the Secretary, upon request, growth projections for the personnel of each such agency over the estimated life of each embassy or consulate, as the case may be.

(c) **BASIS FOR ESTIMATES.**—The Department shall base its growth assumption for all NECs and NCCs on the estimates required under subsections (a) and (b).

(d) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—Any congressional notification of site selection for a NEC or NCC submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act shall include the growth assumption used pursuant to subsection (c).

SEC. 206. LONG-RANGE PLANNING PROCESS.

(a) **PLANS REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary shall develop—

(A) a comprehensive six-year plan documenting the Department's overseas building program for the replacement of overseas diplomatic posts taking into account security factors under the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 and other relevant statutes and regulations, as well as occupational safety and health factors pursuant to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and other relevant statutes and regulations, including environmental factors such as indoor air quality that impact employee health and safety; and

(B) a comprehensive six-year plan detailing the Department's long-term planning for the maintenance and sustainment of completed diplomatic posts, which takes into account security factors under the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 and other relevant statutes and regulations, as well as occupational safety and health factors pursuant to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and other relevant statutes and regulations, including environmental factors such as indoor air quality that impact employee health and safety.

(2) **INITIAL REPORT.**—The first plan developed pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) shall also include a one-time status report on existing small diplomatic posts and a strategy for establishing a physical diplomatic presence in countries in which there is no current physical diplomatic presence. Such report, which may include a classified annex, shall include the following:

(A) A description of the extent to which each small diplomatic post furthers the national interest of the United States.

(B) A description of how each small diplomatic post provides American Citizen Services, including data on specific services provided and the number of Americans receiving services over the previous year.

(C) A description of whether each small diplomatic post meets current security requirements.

(D) A description of the full financial cost of maintaining each small diplomatic post.

(E) Input from the relevant chiefs of mission on any unique operational or policy value the small diplomatic post provides.

(3) **UPDATED INFORMATION.**—The annual updates of each of the plans developed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall highlight any changes from the previous year's plan to the ordering of construction and maintenance projects.

(b) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **SUBMISSION OF PLANS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 60 days after the completion of each plan required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit the plans to the appropriate congressional committees.

(2) **REFERENCE IN BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIALS.**—In the budget justification materials submitted to the appropriate congressional committees in support of the Depart-

ment's budget for any fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), the plans required under subsection (a) shall be referenced to justify funding requested for building and maintenance projects overseas.

(3) **FORM OF REPORT.**—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(c) **SMALL DIPLOMATIC POST DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "small diplomatic post" means any United States embassy or consulate that has employed five or fewer United States Government employees on average over the 36 months prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 207. VALUE ENGINEERING AND RISK ASSESSMENT.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Federal departments and agencies are required to use value engineering (VE) as a management tool, where appropriate, to reduce program and acquisition costs pursuant to OMB Circular A-131, Value Engineering, dated December 31, 2013.

(2) OBO has a Policy Directive and Standard Operation Procedure, dated May 24, 2017, on conducting risk management studies on all international construction projects.

(b) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **SUBMISSION TO AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.**—The proposed allocation of capital construction and maintenance funds that is required by the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of an Act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs shall also be submitted to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **REQUIREMENT TO CONFIRM COMPLETION OF VALUE ENGINEERING AND RISK ASSESSMENT STUDIES.**—The notifications required under paragraph (1) shall include confirmation that the Department has completed the requisite VE and risk management studies described in subsection (a).

(c) **REPORTING AND BRIEFING REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees upon request—

(1) a description of each risk management study referred to in subsection (a)(2) and a table detailing which recommendations related to each such study were accepted and which were rejected; and

(2) a report or briefing detailing the rationale for not implementing any such recommendations that may otherwise yield significant cost savings to the Department if implemented.

SEC. 208. BUSINESS VOLUME.

Section 402(c)(2)(E) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4852(c)(2)(E)) is amended by striking "in 3 years" and inserting "cumulatively over 3 years".

SEC. 209. EMBASSY SECURITY REQUESTS AND DEFICIENCIES.

The Secretary shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees upon request information on security deficiencies at United States diplomatic posts, including relating to the following:

(1) Requests made over the previous year by United States diplomatic posts for security upgrades.

(2) Significant security deficiencies at United States diplomatic posts that are not operating out of a new embassy compound or new consulate compound.

SEC. 210. OVERSEAS SECURITY BRIEFINGS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise the Foreign Affairs Manual to stipulate that information on the current threat environment shall be provided to all United States Government employees under chief of mission authority traveling to a foreign country on official business. To the extent practicable, such material shall be provided to such employees prior to their arrival at a United States diplomatic post or as soon as possible thereafter.

SEC. 211. CONTRACTING METHODS IN CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION.

(a) **DELIVERY.**—Unless the Secretary notifies the appropriate congressional committees that the use of the design-build project delivery method would not be appropriate, the Secretary shall make use of such method at United States diplomatic posts that have not yet received design or capital construction contracts as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **NOTIFICATION.**—Before executing a contract for a delivery method other than design-build in accordance with subsection (a), the Secretary shall notify the appropriate congressional committees in writing of the decision, including the reasons therefor. The notification required by this subsection may be included in any other report regarding a new United States diplomatic post that is required to be submitted to the appropriate congressional committees.

(c) **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees regarding performance evaluation measures in accordance with GAO's "Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government" that will be applicable to design and construction, lifecycle cost, and building maintenance programs of the Bureau of Overseas Building Operations of the Department.

SEC. 212. COMPETITION IN EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION.

Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committee a report detailing steps the Department is taking to expand the embassy construction contractor base in order to increase competition and maximize value.

SEC. 213. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States that the Bureau of Overseas Building Operations of the Department or its successor office shall continue to balance functionality and security with accessibility, as defined by guidelines established by the United States Access Board in constructing embassies and consulates, and shall ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) to the fullest extent possible.

SEC. 214. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **DESIGN-BUILD.**—The term "design-build" means a method of project delivery in which one entity works under a single contract with the Department to provide design and construction services.

(2) **NON-STANDARD DESIGN.**—The term "non-standard design" means a design for a new embassy compound project or new consulate compound project that does not utilize a standardized design for the structural, spatial, or security requirements of such embassy compound or consulate compound, as the case may be.

TITLE III—PERSONNEL ISSUES

SEC. 301. DEFENSE BASE ACT INSURANCE WAIVERS.

(a) **APPLICATION FOR WAIVERS.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment

of this Act, the Secretary shall apply to the Department of Labor for a waiver from insurance requirements under the Defense Base Act (42 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.) for all countries with respect to which the requirement was waived prior to January 2017, and for which there is not currently a waiver.

(b) **CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that the requirement in subsection (a) has been met.

SEC. 302. STUDY ON FOREIGN SERVICE ALLOWANCES.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing an empirical analysis on the effect of overseas allowances on the foreign assignment of Foreign Service officers (FSOs), to be conducted by a federally-funded research and development center with appropriate expertise in labor economics and military compensation.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The analysis required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify all allowances paid to FSOs assigned permanently or on temporary duty to foreign areas;

(B) examine the efficiency of the Foreign Service bidding system in determining foreign assignments;

(C) examine the factors that incentivize FSOs to bid on particular assignments, including danger levels and hardship conditions;

(D) examine the Department's strategy and process for incentivizing FSOs to bid on assignments that are historically in lower demand, including with monetary compensation, and whether monetary compensation is necessary for assignments in higher demand;

(E) make any relevant comparisons to military compensation and allowances, noting which allowances are shared or based on the same regulations;

(F) recommend options for restructuring allowances to improve the efficiency of the assignments system and better align FSO incentives with the needs of the Foreign Service, including any cost savings associated with such restructuring;

(G) recommend any statutory changes necessary to implement subparagraph (F), such as consolidating existing legal authorities for the provision of hardship and danger pay; and

(H) detail any effects of recommendations made pursuant to subparagraphs (F) and (G) on other United States Government departments and agencies with civilian employees permanently assigned or on temporary duty in foreign areas, following consultation with such departments and agencies.

(b) **BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.**—Before initiating the analysis required under subsection (a)(1), and not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives a briefing on the implementation of this section that includes the following:

(1) The name of the federally-funded research and development center that will conduct such analysis.

(2) The scope of such analysis and terms of reference for such analysis as specified between the Department and such federally-funded research and development center.

(c) **AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall make available to the federally-funded research and development center carrying out the

analysis required under subsection (a)(1) all necessary and relevant information to allow such center to conduct such analysis in a quantitative and analytical manner, including historical data on the number of bids for each foreign assignment and any survey data collected by the Department from eligible bidders on their bid decision-making.

(2) **COOPERATION.**—The Secretary shall work with the heads of other relevant United States Government departments and agencies to ensure such departments and agencies provide all necessary and relevant information to the federally-funded research and development center carrying out the analysis required under subsection (a)(1).

(d) **INTERIM REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary shall require that the chief executive officer of the federally-funded research and development center that carries out the analysis required under subsection (a)(1) submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives an interim report on such analysis not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 303. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS.

Section 504 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1979 (22 U.S.C. 2656d) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) **GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS RELATED TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements related to Department of State science and technology fellowship programs, including for assistance in recruiting fellows and the payment of stipends, travel, and other appropriate expenses to fellows.

“(2) **EXCLUSION FROM CONSIDERATION AS COMPENSATION.**—Stipends under paragraph (1) shall not be considered compensation for purposes of section 209 of title 18, United States Code.

“(3) **MAXIMUM ANNUAL AMOUNT.**—The total amount of grants made pursuant to this subsection may not exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year.”

SEC. 304. TRAVEL FOR SEPARATED FAMILIES.

Section 901(15) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081(15)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “1 round-trip per year for each child below age 21 of a member of the Service assigned abroad” and inserting “in the case of one or more children below age 21 of a member of the Service assigned abroad, 1 round-trip per year”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting “for each child” before “to visit the member abroad”; and

(B) by striking “; or” and inserting a comma;

(3) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by inserting “for each child” before “to visit the other parent”; and

(B) by inserting “or” after “resides.”;

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) for one of the child's parents to visit the child or children abroad if the child or children do not regularly reside with that parent and that parent is not receiving an education allowance or educational travel allowance for the child or children under section 5924(4) of title 5, United States Code.”; and

(5) in the matter following subparagraph (C), as added by paragraph (4) of this section, by striking “a payment” and inserting “the cost of round-trip travel”.

SEC. 305. HOME LEAVE TRAVEL FOR SEPARATED FAMILIES.

Section 903(b) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4083(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “In cases in which the family members of a member of the Service reside apart from the member at authorized locations outside the United States because they are prevented by official order from residing with the member at post, the member may take the leave ordered under this section where that member's family members reside, notwithstanding section 6305 of title 5, United States Code.”

SEC. 306. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CERTAIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Department fellowships that promote the employment of candidates belonging to under-represented groups, including the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program, represent smart investments vital for building a strong, capable, and representative national security workforce; and

(2) the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should fulfill the terms of their fellowship agreements with each participant in the Fellowship Programs referred to in paragraph (1), as specified in the original contractual agreements with each such participant.

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Subparagraph (A) of section 601(c)(6) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4001(c)(6)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by—

(1) striking “promotion” and inserting “promotion, on or after January 1, 2017.”; and

(2) striking “individual joining the Service on or after January 1, 2017,” and inserting “Foreign Service officer, appointed under section 302(a)(1), who has general responsibility for carrying out the functions of the Service”.

SEC. 308. FOREIGN SERVICE AWARDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 614 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4013) is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows: “DEPARTMENT AWARDS”; and

(2) in the first sentence, by inserting “or Civil Service” after “the Service”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The item relating to section 614 in the table of contents of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 614. Department awards.”.

SEC. 309. DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS ON WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should continue to hold entry-level classes for Foreign Service officers and specialists and continue to recruit civil servants through programs such as the Presidential Management Fellows Program and Pathways Internship Programs in a manner and at a frequency consistent with prior years and consistent with the need to maintain a pool of experienced personnel effectively distributed across skill codes and ranks. It is further the sense of Congress that absent continuous recruitment and training of Foreign Service officers and civil servants, the Department will lack experienced, qualified personnel in the short, medium, and long terms.

(b) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary may not implement any reduction-in-force action under section 3502 or 3595 of title 5, United States Code, or for any incentive payments

for early separation or retirement under any other provision of law unless—

(1) the appropriate congressional committees are notified not less than 15 days in advance of such obligation or expenditure; and

(2) the Secretary has provided to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report that describes the Department's strategic staffing goals, including—

(A) a justification that describes how any proposed workforce reduction enhances the effectiveness of the Department;

(B) a certification that such workforce reduction is in the national interest of the United States;

(C) a comprehensive strategic staffing plan for the Department, including five-year workforce forecasting and a description of the anticipated impact of any proposed workforce reduction; and

(D) a dataset displaying comprehensive workforce data for all current and planned employees of the Department, disaggregated by—

(i) Foreign Service officer and Foreign Service specialist rank;

(ii) civil service job skill code, grade level, and bureau of assignment;

(iii) contracted employees, including the equivalent job skill code and bureau of assignment; and

(iv) employees hired under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, including their equivalent grade and job skill code and bureau of assignment.

SEC. 310. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department should continue to promote the employment of veterans, in accordance with section 301 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3941), as amended by section 405 of this Act, including those veterans belonging to traditionally underrepresented groups at the Department;

(2) veterans employed by the Department have made significant contributions to United States foreign policy in a variety of regional and global affairs bureaus and diplomatic posts overseas; and

(3) the Department should continue to encourage veteran employment and facilitate their participation in the workforce.

SEC. 311. EMPLOYEE ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTIONS AND PRECLUSIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department should expand the appeal process it makes available to employees related to assignment preclusions and restrictions.

(b) APPEAL OF ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTION OR PRECLUSION.—Section 502(a)(2) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3982(a)(2)), as amended by section 111 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new sentences: “Any employee subjected to an assignment restriction or preclusion shall have the same appeal rights as provided by the Department regarding denial or revocation of a security clearance. Any such appeal shall be resolved not later than 60 days after such appeal is filed.”

(c) NOTICE AND CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise, and certify to the appropriate congressional committees regarding such revision, the Foreign Affairs Manual guidance regarding denial or revocation of a security clearance to expressly state that all review and appeal rights relating thereto shall also apply to any recommendation or decision to impose an assignment restriction or preclusion to an employee.

SEC. 312. RECALL AND REEMPLOYMENT OF CAREER MEMBERS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) career Department employees provide invaluable service to the United States as nonpartisan professionals who contribute subject matter expertise and professional skills to the successful development and execution of United States foreign policy; and

(2) re-employment of skilled former members of the Foreign and civil service who have voluntarily separated from the Foreign or civil service due to family reasons or to obtain professional skills outside government is of benefit to the Department.

(b) REEMPLOYMENT.—Subsection (b) of section 308 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3948) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Former career tenured members of the Service seeking reappointment, if separated for other than cause for up to three years prior to the date of the enactment of this sentence, shall be eligible to participate in the regular assignment bidding process without restriction and shall not be required to accept a directed first assignment upon reappointment.”

(c) NOTICE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 102 the following new chapter:

“CHAPTER 103—NOTICE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND USAID POSITIONS

“§ 10301. Notice of Employment Opportunities for Department of State and USAID positions

“To ensure that individuals who have separated from the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development and who are eligible for reappointment are aware of such opportunities, the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development shall publicize notice of all employment opportunities, including positions for which the relevant agency is accepting applications from individuals within the agency's workforce under merit promotion procedures, on publicly accessible sites, including www.usajobs.gov. If using merit promotion procedures, the notice shall expressly state that former employees eligible for reinstatement may apply.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart I of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“10301. Notice of employment opportunities for Department of State and USAID positions”.

SEC. 313. STRATEGIC STAFFING PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive five-year strategic staffing plan for the Department that is aligned with and furthers the objectives of the National Security Strategy of the United States of America issued in December 2017, or any subsequent strategy issued not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, which shall include the following:

(1) A dataset displaying comprehensive workforce data, including all shortages in bureaus described in GAO report GAO-19-220, for all current and planned employees of the Department, disaggregated by—

(A) Foreign Service officer and Foreign Service specialist rank;

(B) civil service job skill code, grade level, and bureau of assignment;

(C) contracted employees, including the equivalent job skill code and bureau of assignment; and

(D) employees hired under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, including the equivalent grade and job skill code and bureau of assignment of such employee.

(2) Recommendations on the number of Foreign Service officers disaggregated by service cone that should be posted at each United States diplomatic post and in the District of Columbia, with a detailed basis for such recommendations.

(3) Recommendations on the number of civil service officers that should be employed by the Department, with a detailed basis for such recommendations.

(b) MAINTENANCE.—The dataset required under subsection (a)(1) shall be maintained and updated on a regular basis.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall lead the development of the plan required under subsection (a) but may consult or partner with private sector entities with expertise in labor economics, management, or human resources, as well as organizations familiar with the demands and needs of the Department's workforce.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report regarding root causes of Foreign Service and civil service shortages, the effect of such shortages on national security objectives, and the Department's plan to implement recommendations described in GAO-19-220.

SEC. 314. CONSULTING SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 103 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 313 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 10302. Consulting services for the Department of State

“Any consulting service obtained by the Department of State through procurement contract pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts with respect to which expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except if otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing executive order issued pursuant to existing law.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart I of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 10302 the following new item:

“10302. Consulting services for the Department of State”.

SEC. 315. INCENTIVES FOR CRITICAL POSTS.

Section 1115(d) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-32) is amended by striking the last sentence.

SEC. 316. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARDS.

Section 301(a)(3) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4831(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “AFGHANISTAN AND” and inserting “AFGHANISTAN, YEMEN, SYRIA, AND”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “Afghanistan or” and inserting “Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, or”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “beginning on October 1, 2005, and ending on September 30, 2009” and inserting “beginning on October 1, 2019, and ending on September 30, 2022”.

SEC. 317. FOREIGN SERVICE SUSPENSION WITH-OUT PAY.

Subsection (c) of section 610 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4010) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “suspend” and inserting “indefinitely suspend without duties”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7);

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

“(5) Any member of the Service suspended from duties under this subsection may be suspended without pay only after a final written decision is provided to such member under paragraph (2).

“(6) If no final written decision under paragraph (2) has been provided within one calendar year of the date the suspension at issue was proposed, not later than 30 days thereafter the Secretary of State shall report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate in writing regarding the specific reasons for such delay.”; and

(4) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “(7) In this subsection.”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “(A) The term” and inserting the following:

“(7) In this subsection, the term”;

(C) by striking subparagraph (B) (relating to the definition of “suspend” and “suspension”); and

(D) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and moving such subparagraphs two ems to the left.

SEC. 318. FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS HANDBOOK CHANGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 180 days thereafter for five years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing all changes made to the Foreign Affairs Manual or the Foreign Affairs Handbook.

(b) COVERED PERIODS.—The first report required under subsection (a) shall cover the five year period preceding the submission of such report. Each subsequent report shall cover the 180 day period preceding submission.

(c) CONTENTS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall contain the following:

(1) The location within the Foreign Affairs Manual or the Foreign Affairs Handbook where a change has been made.

(2) The statutory basis for each such change.

(3) A side-by-side comparison of the Foreign Affairs Manual or Foreign Affairs Handbook before and after such change.

(4) A summary of such changes displayed in spreadsheet form.

SEC. 319. WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR INDIVIDUAL OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF CERTAIN POSITIONS.

The Secretary of State may waive any or all of the individual occupational requirements with respect to an employee or prospective employee of the Department of State for a civilian position categorized under the GS-0130 occupational series if the Secretary determines that the individual possesses significant scientific, technological, engineering, or mathematical expertise that is integral to performing the duties of the applicable position, based on demonstrated job performance and qualifying experience. With respect to each waiver granted under this subsection, the Secretary shall set forth in a written document that is transmitted to the Director of the Office of Personnel Management the rationale for the decision of the Secretary to waive such requirements.

SEC. 320. STANDARDIZING DEPARTMENT PARENTAL LEAVE POLICIES.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to—

(1) afford every employee at the Department equal access to leave and workplace flexibilities for childbirth, adoption, and foster care;

(2) encourage the Department to work towards a parental leave policy that will help recruit and retain a dynamic, multi-talented, and diverse workforce capable of meeting the national security and foreign policy goals of the United States; and

(3) determine the impacts of flexible leave policies on recruitment and retention rates.

(b) ESTABLISHING STANDARD PARENTAL LEAVE POLICIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish and implement a standard parental leave policy applicable to Department employees across all bureaus and offices within the Department and Missions abroad. Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide any new category of leave not otherwise provided by law.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing—

(A) the steps taken to implement the policy required under paragraph (1) across all bureaus and offices within the Department and Missions abroad; and

(B) any costs associated with such policy.

SEC. 321. APPOINTMENT OF EMPLOYEES TO THE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER.

The Secretary may appoint, for a three year period that may be extended for up to an additional two years, solely to carry out the functions of the Global Engagement Center, employees of the Department without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointment in the competitive service, and may fix the basic compensation of such employees without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title.

SEC. 322. REST AND RECUPERATION AND OVERSEAS OPERATIONS LEAVE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“§ 6329d. Rest and recuperation leave

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘agency’ means an Executive agency (as that term is defined in section 105), but does not include the Government Accountability Office;

“(2) the term ‘combat zone’ means a geographic area designated by an Executive Order of the President as an area in which the Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat, an area designated by law to be treated as a combat zone, or a location the Department of Defense has certified for combat zone tax benefits due to its direct support of military operations;

“(3) the term ‘employee’ has the meaning given that term in section 6301;

“(4) the term ‘high risk, high threat post’ has the meaning given that term in section 104 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4803); and

“(5) the term ‘leave year’ means the period beginning on the first day of the first complete pay period in a calendar year and ending on the day immediately before the first day of the first complete pay period in the following calendar year.

“(b) LEAVE FOR REST AND RECUPERATION.—The head of an agency may prescribe regulations to grant up to 20 days of paid leave, per

leave year, for the purposes of rest and recuperation to an employee of the agency serving in a combat zone, any other high risk, high threat post, or any other location presenting significant security or operational challenges.

“(c) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF AGENCY HEAD.—Use of the authority under subsection (b) is at the sole and exclusive discretion of the head of the agency concerned.

“(d) RECORDS.—An agency shall record leave provided under this section separately from leave authorized under any other provision of law.

“§ 6329e. Overseas operations leave

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘agency’ means an Executive agency (as that term is defined in section 105), but does not include the Government Accountability Office;

“(2) the term ‘employee’ has the meaning given that term in section 6301; and

“(3) the term ‘leave year’ means the period beginning with the first day of the first complete pay period in a calendar year and ending with the day immediately before the first day of the first complete pay period in the following calendar year.

“(b) LEAVE FOR OVERSEAS OPERATIONS.—The head of an agency may prescribe regulations to grant up to 10 days of paid leave, per leave year, to an employee of the agency serving abroad where the conduct of business could pose potential security or safety related risks or would be inconsistent with host-country practice. Such regulations may provide that additional leave days may be granted during such leave year if the head of the agency determines that to do so is necessary to advance the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

“(c) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF AGENCY HEAD.—Use of the authority under subsection (b) is at the sole and exclusive discretion of the head of the agency concerned.

“(d) RECORDS.—An agency shall record leave provided under this section separately from leave authorized under any other provision of law.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6329c the following new items:

“6329d. Rest and recuperation leave.

“6329e. Overseas operations leave.”.

TITLE IV—A DIVERSE WORKFORCE: RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND PROMOTION

SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPLICANT FLOW DATA.—The term “applicant flow data” means data that tracks the rate of applications for job positions among demographic categories.

(2) DEMOGRAPHIC DATA.—The term “demographic data” means facts or statistics relating to the demographic categories specified in the Office of Management and Budget statistical policy directive entitled “Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity” (81 Fed. Reg. 67398).

(3) DIVERSITY.—The term “diversity” means those classes of persons protected under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

(4) WORKFORCE.—The term “workforce” means—

(A) individuals serving in a position in the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code);

(B) individuals who are members of the Foreign Service (as defined in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3902));

(C) all individuals serving under a personal services agreement or personal services contract;

(D) all individuals serving under a Foreign Service Limited appointment under section 309 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980; or

(E) individuals working in the Department of State under any other authority.

SEC. 402. COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND DISSEMINATION OF WORKFORCE DATA.

(a) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which shall also be posted on a publicly available website of the Department in a searchable database format, that includes disaggregated demographic data and other information regarding the diversity of the workforce of the Department.

(b) **DATA.**—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following data:

(1) Demographic data on each element of the workforce of the Department, disaggregated by rank and grade or grade-equivalent, with respect to the following groups:

(A) Applicants for positions in the Department.

(B) Individuals hired to join the workforce.

(C) Individuals promoted during the 2-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, including promotions to and within the Senior Executive Service or the Senior Foreign Service.

(D) Individuals serving on applicable selection boards.

(E) Members of any external advisory committee or board who are subject to appointment by individuals at senior positions in the Department.

(F) Individuals participating in professional development programs of the Department, and the extent to which such participants have been placed into senior positions within the Department after such participation.

(G) Individuals participating in mentorship or retention programs.

(H) Individuals who separated from the agency during the 2-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, including individuals in the Senior Executive Service or the Senior Foreign Service.

(2) An assessment of agency compliance with the essential elements identified in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Management Directive 715, effective October 1, 2003.

(3) Data on the overall number of individuals who are part of the workforce, the percentages of such workforce corresponding to each element listed in section 401(4), and the percentages corresponding to each rank, grade, or grade-equivalent.

(c) **RECOMMENDATION.**—The Secretary may include in the report under subsection (a) a recommendation to the Director of Office of Management and Budget and to the appropriate congressional committees regarding whether the Department should collect more detailed data on demographic categories in addition to the race and ethnicity categories specified in the Office of Management and Budget statistical policy directive entitled “Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity” (81 Fed. Reg. 67398).

(d) **OTHER CONTENTS.**—The report under subsection (a) shall also describe and assess the effectiveness of the efforts of the Department—

(1) to propagate fairness, impartiality, and inclusion in the work environment, both domestically and abroad;

(2) to enforce anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies, both domestically and at posts overseas;

(3) to refrain from engaging in unlawful discrimination in any phase of the employment process, including recruitment, hiring, evaluation, assignments, promotion, retention, and training;

(4) to prevent illegal retaliation against employees for participating in a protected equal employment opportunity activity or for reporting sexual harassment or sexual assault;

(5) to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified employees and applicants with disabilities; and

(6) to recruit a representative workforce by—

(A) recruiting women and minorities;

(B) recruiting at women’s colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions, and other institutions serving a significant percentage of minority students;

(C) placing job advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and job sites oriented toward women and minorities;

(D) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban and rural communities and land-grant colleges or universities;

(E) providing opportunities through the Foreign Service Internship Program under chapter 12 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4141 et seq.) and other hiring initiatives;

(F) recruiting mid-level and senior-level professionals through programs designed to increase minority representation in international affairs;

(G) offering the Foreign Service written and oral assessment examinations in several locations throughout the United States to reduce the burden of applicants having to travel at their own expense to take either or both such examinations; and

(H) support recruiting and hiring opportunities through—

(i) the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship Program;

(ii) the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program;

(iii) the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program; and

(iv) other initiatives, including agency-wide policy initiatives.

(e) **ANNUAL UPDATES.**—Not later than one year after the publication of the report required under subsection (a) and annually thereafter for the following five years, the Secretary shall work with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to provide a report to the appropriate congressional committees, which shall be posted on the Department’s website, which may be included in another annual report required under another provision of law, that includes—

(1) disaggregated demographic data relating to the workforce and information on the status of diversity and inclusion efforts of the Department;

(2) an analysis of applicant flow data; and

(3) disaggregated demographic data relating to participants in professional development programs of the Department and the rate of placement into senior positions for participants in such programs.

SEC. 403. EXIT INTERVIEWS FOR WORKFORCE.

(a) **RETAINED MEMBERS.**—The Director General of the Foreign Service and the Director of Human Resources of the Department should conduct periodic interviews with a representative and diverse cross-section of the workforce of the Department—

(1) to understand the reasons of individuals in such workforce for remaining in a position in the Department; and

(2) to receive feedback on workplace policies, professional development opportunities, and other issues affecting the decision of individuals in the workforce to remain in the Department.

(b) **DEPARTING MEMBERS.**—The Director General of the Foreign Service and the Director of Human Resources shall provide an opportunity for an exit interview to each individual in the workforce of the Department who separates from service with the Department to better understand the reasons of such individual for leaving such service.

(c) **USE OF ANALYSIS FROM INTERVIEWS.**—The Director General of the Foreign Service and the Director of Human Resources shall analyze demographic data and other information obtained through interviews under subsections (a) and (b) to determine—

(1) to what extent, if any, the diversity of those participating in such interviews impacts the results; and

(2) whether to implement any policy changes or include any recommendations in a report required under subsection (a) or (e) of section 402 relating to the determination reached pursuant to paragraph (1).

(d) **TRACKING DATA.**—The Department shall—

(1) track demographic data relating to participants in professional development programs and the rate of placement into senior positions for participants in such programs;

(2) annually evaluate such data—

(A) to identify ways to improve outreach and recruitment for such programs, consistent with merit system principles; and

(B) to understand the extent to which participation in any professional development program offered or sponsored by the Department differs among the demographic categories of the workforce; and

(3) actively encourage participation from a range of demographic categories, especially from categories with consistently low participation, in such professional development programs.

SEC. 404. RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary should—

(1) continue to seek a diverse and talented pool of applicants; and

(2) instruct the Director General of the Foreign Service and the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources of the Department to have a recruitment plan of action for the recruitment of people belonging to traditionally under-represented groups, which should include outreach at appropriate colleges, universities, affinity groups, and professional associations.

(b) **SCOPE.**—The diversity recruitment initiatives described in subsection (a) should include—

(1) recruiting at women’s colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions, and other institutions serving a significant percentage of minority students;

(2) placing job advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and job sites oriented toward diverse groups;

(3) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban and rural communities and land-grant colleges or universities;

(4) providing opportunities through highly respected, international leadership programs, that focus on diversity recruitment and retention; and

(5) cultivating partnerships with organizations dedicated to the advancement of the profession of international affairs and national security to advance shared diversity goals.

(c) **EXPAND TRAINING ON ANTI-HARASSMENT AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, through the Foreign Service Institute and

other educational and training opportunities—

(A) ensure the provision of training on anti-harassment and anti-discrimination information and policies to all individuals in the workforce;

(B) expand the provision of training on workplace rights and responsibilities to focus on anti-harassment and anti-discrimination information and policies, including policies relating to sexual assault prevention and response; and

(C) make such expanded training mandatory for—

(i) individuals in senior and supervisory positions;

(ii) individuals having responsibilities related to recruitment, retention, or promotion of employees; and

(iii) any other individual determined by the Department who needs such training based on analysis by the Department or OPM analysis.

(2) **BEST PRACTICES.**—The Department shall give special attention to ensuring the continuous incorporation of research-based best practices in training provided under this subsection.

SEC. 405. LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) **REWARD AND RECOGNIZE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall implement performance and advancement requirements that reward and recognize the efforts of individuals in senior positions and supervisors in the Department in fostering an inclusive environment and cultivating talent consistent with merit system principles, such as through participation in mentoring programs or sponsorship initiatives, recruitment events, and other similar opportunities.

(2) **OUTREACH EVENTS.**—The Secretary shall create opportunities for individuals in senior positions and supervisors in the Department to participate in outreach events and to discuss issues relating to diversity and inclusion with the workforce on a regular basis, including with employee resource groups.

(b) **EXTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS.**—For each external advisory committee or board to which individuals in senior positions in the Department appoint members, the Secretary is strongly encouraged by Congress to ensure such external advisory committee or board is developed, reviewed, and carried out by qualified teams that represent the diversity of the organization.

SEC. 406. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS.

(a) **EXPAND PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to expand professional development opportunities that support the mission needs of the Department, such as—

(A) academic programs;

(B) private-public exchanges; and

(C) detail assignments to relevant positions in—

(i) private or international organizations;

(ii) State, local, and Tribal governments;

(iii) other branches of the Federal Government; or

(iv) professional schools of international affairs.

(2) **TRAINING FOR SENIOR POSITIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall offer, or sponsor members of the workforce to participate in, a Senior Executive Service candidate development program or other program that trains members on the skills required for appointment to senior positions in the Department.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In determining which members of the workforce are granted professional development or career advancement opportunities under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) ensure any program offered or sponsored by the Department under such subparagraph comports with the requirements of subpart C of part 412 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, including merit staffing and assessment requirements;

(ii) consider the number of expected vacancies in senior positions as a factor in determining the number of candidates to select for such programs;

(iii) understand how participation in any program offered or sponsored by the Department under such subparagraph differs by gender, race, national origin, disability status, or other demographic categories; and

(iv) actively encourage participation from a range of demographic categories, especially from categories with consistently low participation.

SEC. 407. EXAMINATION AND ORAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Department should offer both the Foreign Service written examination and oral assessment in more locations throughout the United States. Doing so would ease the financial burden on potential candidates who do not currently reside in and must travel at their own expense to one of the few locations where these assessments are offered.

(b) **FOREIGN SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.**—Section 301(b) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3941) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting: “(1) The Secretary”; and

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

“(2) The Secretary shall ensure that the Board of Examiners for the Foreign Service annually offers the oral assessment examinations described in paragraph (1) in cities, chosen on a rotating basis, located in at least three different time zones across the United States.”

SEC. 408. PAYNE FELLOWSHIP AUTHORIZATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Undergraduate and graduate components of the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program may conduct outreach to attract outstanding students with an interest in pursuing a Foreign Service career who represent diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

(b) **REVIEW OF PAST PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary shall review past programs designed to increase minority representation in international affairs positions.

SEC. 409. VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this title should be construed so as to compel any employee to participate in the collection of the data or divulge any personal information. Department employees shall be informed that their participation in the data collection contemplated by this title is voluntary.

(b) **PRIVACY PROTECTION.**—Any data collected under this title shall be subject to the relevant privacy protection statutes and regulations applicable to Federal employees.

TITLE V—INFORMATION SECURITY

SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **INFORMATION SYSTEM.**—The term “information system” has the meaning given such term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(2) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(3) **RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “relevant congressional committees” means—

(A) the appropriate congressional committees;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(C) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 502. INFORMATION SYSTEM SECURITY.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **INCIDENT.**—The term “incident” has the meaning given such term in section 3552(b) of title 44, United States Code.

(2) **PENETRATION TEST.**—The term “penetration test” means a test methodology in which assessors attempt to circumvent or defeat the security features of an information system.

(b) **CONSULTATIONS PROCESS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a process for conducting semiannual consultations with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and any other department or agency representative who the Secretary determines to be appropriate regarding the security of United States Government and nongovernmental information systems used or operated by the Department, a contractor of the Department, or another organization on behalf of the Department, including any such systems or networks facilitating the use of sensitive or classified information.

(c) **INDEPENDENT PENETRATION TESTING OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS.**—In coordination with the consultations under subsection (b), the Secretary shall commission independent, semiannual penetration tests, which shall be carried out by an appropriate Federal department or agency other than the Department, such as the Department of Homeland Security or the National Security Agency, to ensure that adequate policies and protections are implemented to detect and prevent penetrations or compromises of such information systems, including malicious intrusions by any unauthorized individual, state actor, or other entity.

(d) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the requirement under subsection (c) for up to one year if the Secretary—

(1) determines that such requirement would have adverse effects on national security or the diplomatic mission of the Department; and

(2) not later than 30 days after the commencement of such a determination, submits to the relevant congressional committees a written justification that describes how such penetration tests would undermine national security or the diplomatic mission of the Department.

(e) **INCIDENT REPORTING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for three years, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and any other department or agency representative who the Secretary determines to be appropriate, shall securely submit to the relevant congressional committees a classified report that describes in detail the following:

(1) For the first reporting period, all known and suspected incidents affecting the information systems specified in subsection (b) that occurred during the 180-day period immediately preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) For all subsequent reporting periods, all known and suspected incidents affecting the information systems specified in subsection (b) that occurred since the submission of the most recent report.

(f) CONTENTS.—Each report under subsection (e) shall include, for the relevant reporting period, a summary overview addressing the following:

(1) A description of the relevant information system, as specified in subsection (b), that experienced a known or suspected incident.

(2) An assessment of the date and time each such incident occurred or was suspected to have occurred.

(3) An assessment of the duration over which each such incident took place or is suspected of having taken place, including whether such incident is ongoing.

(4) An assessment of the volume and sensitivity of information accessed, compromised, or potentially compromised by each incident, including any such information contained on information systems owned, operated, managed, or utilized by any other Federal department or agency.

(5) An assessment of whether such information system was compromised by such incident, including an assessment of the following:

(A) The known or suspected perpetrators, including state actors.

(B) The methods used to carry out the incident.

(C) The known or suspected intent of the actors in accessing the information system.

(6) A description of the actions the Department has taken or plans to take, including timelines and descriptions of any progress on plans described in prior reports, to prevent future, similar incidents affecting such information systems.

SEC. 503. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDERS.

(a) LIST OF COVERED CONTRACTORS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall develop or maintain, as the case may be, and update as frequently as the Secretary determines appropriate, a list of covered contractors with respect to which the prohibition specified in subsection (b) shall apply. Not later than 30 days after the initial development of the list under this subsection, any update thereto, and annually thereafter for five years after such initial 30 day period, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of such list.

(b) PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may not enter into a contract with a covered contractor on the list described in subsection (a).

(c) REMOVAL FROM LIST.—To be removed from the list described in subsection (a), a covered contractor may submit a request to the Secretary in such manner as the Secretary determines appropriate. The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall determine a process for removing covered contractors from the list, as appropriate, and publicly disclose such process.

(d) WAIVERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President or the Secretary may waive the prohibition specified in subsection (b) if the President or the Secretary determines that such waiver is justified for national security reasons.

(2) WAIVER FOR OVERSEAS OPERATIONS.—The Secretary may waive the prohibition specified in subsection (b) for United States diplomatic posts or diplomatic personnel overseas if the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, determines that no suitable alternatives are available.

(e) COVERED CONTRACTOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered contractor” means a provider of telecommunications, telecommunications equipment, or informa-

tion technology equipment, including hardware, software, or services, that has knowingly assisted or facilitated a cyber attack or conducted surveillance, including passive or active monitoring, carried out against—

(1) the United States by, or on behalf of, any government, or persons associated with such government, listed as a cyber threat actor in the intelligence community’s 2017 assessment of worldwide threats to United States national security or any subsequent worldwide threat assessment of the intelligence community; or

(2) individuals, including activists, journalists, opposition politicians, or other individuals for the purposes of suppressing dissent or intimidating critics, on behalf of a country included in the annual country reports on human rights practices of the Department for systematic acts of political repression, including arbitrary arrest or detention, torture, extrajudicial or politically motivated killing, or other gross violations of human rights.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to contracts of a covered contractor entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 504. PRESERVING RECORDS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED RELATED TO OFFICIAL DUTIES OF POSITIONS IN THE PUBLIC TRUST OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, as a matter of rule of law and transparency in a democratic government, all officers and employees of the Department and the United States Agency for International Development must preserve all records of communications conducted in their official capacities or related to their official duties with entities outside of the United States Government. It is further the sense of Congress that such practice should include foreign government officials or other foreign entities which may seek to influence United States Government policies and actions.

(b) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Foreign Affairs Manual guidance implementing chapter 31 of title 44, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Federal Records Act”), to treat electronic messaging systems, software, and applications as equivalent to electronic mail for the purpose of identifying Federal records, and shall also publish in the Foreign Affairs Manual the statutory penalties for failure to comply with such guidance. No funds are authorized to be appropriated or made available to the Department of State under any Act to support the use or establishment of accounts on third-party messaging applications or other non-Government online communication tools if the Secretary does not certify to the relevant congressional committees that the Secretary has carried out this section.

SEC. 505. FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES (FRUS) SERIES AND DECLASSIFICATION.

The State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 is amended—

(1) in section 401(c) (22 U.S.C. 4351(c)), by striking “30” and inserting “25”;

(2) in section 402(a)(2) (22 U.S.C. 4352(a)(2)), by striking “26” and inserting “20”;

and

(3) in section 404 (22 U.S.C. 4354)—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “30” and inserting “25”;

and

(B) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking “30” and inserting “25”.

SEC. 506. VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE POLICY AND BUG BOUNTY PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BUG BOUNTY PROGRAM.—The term “bug bounty program” means a program under

which an approved individual, organization, or company is temporarily authorized to identify and report vulnerabilities of internet-facing information technology of the Department in exchange for compensation.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of State.

(3) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term “information technology” has the meaning given such term in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall design, establish, and make publicly known a Vulnerability Disclosure Process (VDP) to improve Department cybersecurity by—

(A) providing security researchers with clear guidelines for—

(i) conducting vulnerability discovery activities directed at Department information technology; and

(ii) submitting discovered security vulnerabilities to the Department; and

(B) creating Department procedures and infrastructure to receive and fix discovered vulnerabilities.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the VDP pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) identify which Department information technology should be included in the process;

(B) determine whether the process should differentiate among and specify the types of security vulnerabilities that may be targeted;

(C) provide a readily available means of reporting discovered security vulnerabilities and the form in which such vulnerabilities should be reported;

(D) identify which Department offices and positions will be responsible for receiving, prioritizing, and addressing security vulnerability disclosure reports;

(E) consult with the Attorney General regarding how to ensure that individuals, organizations, and companies that comply with the requirements of the process are protected from prosecution under section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, and similar provisions of law for specific activities authorized under the process;

(F) consult with the relevant offices at the Department of Defense that were responsible for launching the 2016 Vulnerability Disclosure Program, “Hack the Pentagon”, and subsequent Department of Defense bug bounty programs;

(G) engage qualified interested persons, including nongovernmental sector representatives, about the structure of the process as constructive and to the extent practicable; and

(H) award contracts to entities, as necessary, to manage the process and implement the remediation of discovered security vulnerabilities.

(3) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the VDP under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter for the next six years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the VDP, including information relating to the following:

(A) The number and severity, in accordance with the National Vulnerabilities Database of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, of security vulnerabilities reported.

(B) The number of previously unidentified security vulnerabilities remediated as a result.

(C) The current number of outstanding previously unidentified security vulnerabilities and Department of State remediation plans.

(D) The average length of time between the reporting of security vulnerabilities and remediation of such vulnerabilities.

(E) The resources, surge staffing, roles, and responsibilities within the Department used to implement the VDP and complete security vulnerability remediation.

(F) Any other information the Secretary determines relevant.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUG BOUNTY PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a bug bounty pilot program to minimize security vulnerabilities of internet-facing information technology of the Department.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the pilot program described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) provide compensation for reports of previously unidentified security vulnerabilities within the websites, applications, and other internet-facing information technology of the Department that are accessible to the public;

(B) award contracts to entities, as necessary, to manage such pilot program and for executing the remediation of security vulnerabilities identified pursuant to subparagraph (A);

(C) identify which Department information technology should be included in such pilot program;

(D) consult with the Attorney General on how to ensure that individuals, organizations, or companies that comply with the requirements of such pilot program are protected from prosecution under section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, and similar provisions of law for specific activities authorized under such pilot program;

(E) consult with the relevant offices at the Department of Defense that were responsible for launching the 2016 “Hack the Pentagon” pilot program and subsequent Department of Defense bug bounty programs;

(F) develop a process by which an approved individual, organization, or company can register with the entity referred to in subparagraph (B), submit to a background check as determined by the Department, and receive a determination as to eligibility for participation in such pilot program;

(G) engage qualified interested persons, including nongovernmental sector representatives, about the structure of such pilot program as constructive and to the extent practicable; and

(H) consult with relevant United States Government officials to ensure that such pilot program complements persistent network and vulnerability scans of the Department of State’s internet-accessible systems, such as the scans conducted pursuant to Binding Operational Directive BOD-15-01.

(3) DURATION.—The pilot program established under paragraph (1) should be short-term in duration and not last longer than one year.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the bug bounty pilot program under subsection (a) is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on such pilot program, including information relating to—

(A) the number of approved individuals, organizations, or companies involved in such pilot program, broken down by the number

of approved individuals, organizations, or companies that—

- (i) registered;
- (ii) were approved;
- (iii) submitted security vulnerabilities; and
- (iv) received compensation;

(B) the number and severity, in accordance with the National Vulnerabilities Database of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, of security vulnerabilities reported as part of such pilot program;

(C) the number of previously unidentified security vulnerabilities remediated as a result of such pilot program;

(D) the current number of outstanding previously unidentified security vulnerabilities and Department remediation plans;

(E) the average length of time between the reporting of security vulnerabilities and remediation of such vulnerabilities;

(F) the types of compensation provided under such pilot program; and

(G) the lessons learned from such pilot program.

TITLE VI—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Public Diplomacy Modernization Act of 2019”.

SEC. 602. AVOIDING DUPLICATION OF PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS.

The Secretary shall—

(1) identify opportunities for greater efficiency of operations, including through improved coordination of efforts across public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department; and

(2) maximize shared use of resources between, and within, such public diplomacy bureaus and offices in cases in which programs, facilities, or administrative functions are duplicative or substantially overlapping.

SEC. 603. IMPROVING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.

(a) RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of Research and Evaluation appointed pursuant to subsection (b), shall—

(1) conduct regular research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities of the Department, including through the routine use of audience research, digital analytics, and impact evaluations, to plan and execute such programs and activities; and

(2) make available to Congress the findings of the research and evaluations conducted under paragraph (1).

(b) DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint a Director of Research and Evaluation (referred to in this subsection as the “Director”) in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs of the Department.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT.—The appointment of the Director pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not result in an increase in the overall full-time equivalent positions within the Department.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall—

(A) report to the Director of Policy Planning of the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs of the Department;

(B) coordinate and oversee the research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities of the Department to—

(i) improve public diplomacy strategies and tactics; and

(ii) ensure that such programs and activities are increasing the knowledge, understanding, and trust of the United States by relevant target audiences;

(C) routinely organize and oversee audience research, digital analytics, and impact

evaluations across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department;

(D) support United States diplomatic posts’ public affairs sections;

(E) share appropriate public diplomacy research and evaluation information within the Department and with other appropriate Federal departments and agencies;

(F) regularly design and coordinate standardized research questions, methodologies, and procedures to ensure that public diplomacy programs and activities across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices are designed to meet appropriate foreign policy objectives; and

(G) report biannually to the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, through the Subcommittee on Research and Evaluation established pursuant to subsection (f), regarding the research and evaluation of all public diplomacy bureaus and offices.

(4) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—Not later than one year after the appointment of the Director pursuant to paragraph (1), the Director shall develop guidance and training, including curriculum for use by the Foreign Service Institute, for all public diplomacy officers of the Department regarding the reading and interpretation of public diplomacy program and activity evaluation findings to ensure that such findings and related lessons learned are implemented in the planning and evaluation of all public diplomacy programs and activities of the Department.

(c) PRIORITIZING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of Policy Planning of the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs of the Department shall ensure that research and evaluation of public diplomacy and activities of the Department, as coordinated and overseen by the Director pursuant to subsection (b), supports strategic planning and resource allocation across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(2) ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.—Amounts allocated for the purpose of research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities of the Department pursuant to subsection (b) shall be made available to be disbursed at the direction of the Director among the research and evaluation staff across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department should gradually increase its allocation of funds made available under the headings “Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs” and “Diplomatic Programs” for research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities of the Department pursuant to subsection (b) to a percentage of program funds that is commensurate with Federal Government best practices.

(d) LIMITED EXEMPTION RELATING TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”) shall not apply to the collection of information directed at any individuals conducted by, or on behalf of, the Department for the purpose of audience research, monitoring, and evaluations, and in connection with the Department’s activities conducted pursuant to any of the following:

(1) The United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.).

(2) The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.).

(3) Section 1287 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

(4) The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.).

(e) LIMITED EXEMPTION RELATING TO THE PRIVACY ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Department shall maintain, collect, use, and disseminate records (as such term is defined in section 552a(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code) for audience research, digital analytics, and impact evaluation of communications related to public diplomacy efforts intended for foreign audiences.

(2) CONDITIONS.—Audience research, digital analytics, and impact evaluations under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) reasonably tailored to meet the purposes of this subsection; and

(B) carried out with due regard for privacy and civil liberties guidance and oversight.

(f) UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—

(1) SUBCOMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—The United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy shall establish a Subcommittee on Research and Evaluation to monitor and advise regarding audience research, digital analytics, and impact evaluations carried out by the Department and the United States Agency for Global Media.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Subcommittee on Research and Evaluation established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report, in conjunction with the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy's Comprehensive Annual Report on the performance of the Department and the United States Agency for Global Media, describing all actions taken by the Subcommittee pursuant to paragraph (1) and any findings made as a result of such actions.

SEC. 604. PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.

Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “SUNSET” and inserting “CONTINUATION”; and

(2) by striking “until October 1, 2020”.

SEC. 605. STREAMLINING OF SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.

(a) WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a working group to explore the possibilities and cost-benefit analysis of transitioning to a shared services model as such pertains to human resources, travel, purchasing, budgetary planning, and all other executive support functions for all bureaus of the Department that report to the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy of the Department.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan to implement any such findings of the working group established under subsection (a).

SEC. 606. GUIDANCE FOR CLOSURE OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall adopt, and include in the Foreign Affairs Manual, guidelines to collect and utilize information from each diplomatic post at which the construction of a new embassy compound or new consulate compound would result in the closure or co-location of an American Space, American Center, American Corner, or any other public diplomacy facility under the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (22 U.S.C. 4865 et seq.).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidelines required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Standardized notification to each chief of mission at a diplomatic post describing the requirements of the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 and the impact on the mission footprint of such requirements.

(2) An assessment and recommendations from each chief of mission of potential impacts to public diplomacy programming at such diplomatic post if any public diplomacy facility referred to in subsection (a) is closed or staff is co-located in accordance with such Act.

(3) A process by which assessments and recommendations under paragraph (2) are considered by the Secretary and the appropriate Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries of the Department.

(4) Notification to the appropriate congressional committees, prior to the initiation of a new embassy compound or new consulate compound design, of the intent to close any such public diplomacy facility or co-locate public diplomacy staff in accordance with such Act.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the guidelines required under subsection (a) and any recommendations for any modifications to such guidelines.

SEC. 607. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) AUDIENCE RESEARCH.—The term “audience research” means research conducted at the outset of a public diplomacy program or the outset of campaign planning and design regarding specific audience segments to understand the attitudes, interests, knowledge, and behaviors of such audience segments.

(2) DIGITAL ANALYTICS.—The term “digital analytics” means the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, accumulated in digital format, to indicate the outputs and outcomes of a public diplomacy program or campaign.

(3) IMPACT EVALUATION.—The term “impact evaluation” means an assessment of the changes in the audience targeted by a public diplomacy program or campaign that can be attributed to such program or campaign.

(4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY BUREAUS AND OFFICES.—The term “public diplomacy bureaus and offices” means, with respect to the Department, the following:

(A) The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

(B) The Bureau of Global Public Affairs.

(C) The Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

(D) The Global Engagement Center.

(E) The public diplomacy functions within the regional and functional bureaus.

TITLE VII—COMBATING PUBLIC CORRUPTION

SEC. 701. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is in the foreign policy interest of the United States to help foreign countries promote good governance and combat public corruption;

(2) multiple Federal departments and agencies operate programs that promote good governance in foreign countries and enhance such countries' ability to combat public corruption;

(3) the Department should promote coordination among the Federal departments and agencies implementing programs to promote good governance and combat public corruption in foreign countries in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency; and

(4) the Department should identify areas in which United States efforts to help other countries promote good governance and combat public corruption could be enhanced.

SEC. 702. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2020 through 2026, the Secretary shall assess the capacity and commitment of foreign countries to combat public corruption. Each such assessment shall—

(1) utilize independent, third party indicators that measure transparency, accountability, and corruption in the public sector in such countries, including the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, to identify those countries that are most vulnerable to public corruption;

(2) consider, to the extent reliable information is available, whether the government of a country identified under paragraph (1)—

(A) has adopted measures to prevent public corruption, such as measures to inform and educate the public, including potential victims, about the causes and consequences of public corruption;

(B) has enacted laws and established government structures, policies, and practices that prohibit public corruption;

(C) enforces such laws through a fair judicial process;

(D) vigorously investigates, prosecutes, convicts, and sentences public officials who participate in or facilitate public corruption, including nationals of such country who are deployed in foreign military assignments, trade delegations abroad, or other similar missions who engage in or facilitate public corruption;

(E) prescribes appropriate punishment for serious, significant corruption that is commensurate with the punishment prescribed for serious crimes;

(F) prescribes appropriate punishment for significant corruption that provides a sufficiently stringent deterrent and adequately reflects the nature of the offense;

(G) convicts and sentences persons responsible for such acts that take place wholly or partly within the country of such government, including, as appropriate, requiring the incarceration of individuals convicted of such acts;

(H) holds private sector representatives accountable for their role in public corruption; and

(I) addresses threats for civil society to monitor anti-corruption efforts; and

(3) further consider—

(A) verifiable measures taken by the government of a country identified under paragraph (1) to prohibit government officials from participating in, facilitating, or condoning public corruption, including the investigation, prosecution, and conviction of such officials;

(B) the extent to which such government provides access, or, as appropriate, makes adequate resources available, to civil society organizations and other institutions to combat public corruption, including reporting, investigating, and monitoring;

(C) the extent to which an independent judiciary or judicial body in such country is responsible for, and effectively capable of, deciding public corruption cases impartially, on the basis of facts and in accordance with law, without any improper restrictions, influences, inducements, pressures, threats, or interferences, whether direct or indirect, from any source or for any reason;

(D) the extent to which such government cooperates meaningfully with the United States to strengthen government and judicial institutions and the rule of law to prevent, prohibit, and punish public corruption;

(E) the extent to which such government—

(i) is assisting in international investigations of transnational public corruption networks and in other cooperative efforts to combat serious, significant corruption, including cooperating with the governments of other countries to extradite corrupt actors;

(ii) recognizes the rights of victims of public corruption, ensures their access to justice, and takes steps to prevent such victims from being further victimized or persecuted by corrupt actors, government officials, or others; and

(iii) refrains from prosecuting legitimate victims of public corruption or whistleblowers due to such persons having assisted in exposing public corruption, and refrains from other discriminatory treatment of such persons; and

(F) contain such other information relating to public corruption as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) IDENTIFICATION.—After conducting each assessment under subsection (a), the Secretary shall identify the countries described in paragraph (1) of such subsection that are—

(1) meeting minimum standards to combat public corruption;

(2) not meeting such minimum standards but making significant efforts to do so; and

(3) neither meeting such minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter through fiscal year 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make publicly available a report that identifies the countries described in subsection (a)(1) and paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b), including a description of the methodology and data utilized in the assessments under subsection (a) and the reasons for such identifications.

(d) BRIEFING IN LIEU OF REPORT.—The Secretary may waive the requirement to submit and make publicly available a written report under subsection (c) if the Secretary—

(1) determines that publication of such report would—

(A) undermine existing United States anti-corruption efforts in one or more countries; or

(B) threaten the national interests of the United States; and

(2) provides a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees that identifies the countries described in subsection (a)(1) and paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b), including a description of the methodology and data utilized in the assessment under subsection (a) and the reasons for such identifications.

SEC. 703. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

For each country identified under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 702(b), the Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, shall—

(1) ensure that a corruption risk assessment and mitigation strategy is included in the integrated country strategy for such country; and

(2) utilize appropriate mechanisms to combat corruption in such countries, including by ensuring—

(A) the inclusion of anti-corruption clauses in contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements entered into by the Department or the Agency for or in such countries, which allow for the termination of such contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements, as the case may be, without penalty if credible indicators of public corruption are discovered;

(B) the inclusion of appropriate clawback or flowdown clauses within the procurement instruments of the Department and the

Agency that provide for the recovery of funds misappropriated through corruption;

(C) the appropriate disclosure to the United States Government, in confidential form, if necessary, of the beneficial ownership of contractors, subcontractors, grantees, cooperative agreement participants, and other organizations implementing programs on behalf of the Department or Agency; and

(D) the establishment of mechanisms for investigating allegations of misappropriated resources and equipment.

SEC. 704. DESIGNATION OF EMBASSY ANTI-CORRUPTION POINTS OF CONTACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall annually designate an anti-corruption point of contact at the United States diplomatic post to each country identified under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 702(b), or which the Secretary otherwise determines is in need of such a point of contact.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each designated anti-corruption point of contact under subsection (a) shall be responsible for coordinating and overseeing implementation of a whole-of-government approach among the relevant Federal departments and agencies that operate programs that promote good governance in foreign countries and enhance such countries' ability to combat public corruption in order to accomplish such objectives in the country to which such point of contact is posted, including through the development and implementation of corruption risk assessment tools and mitigation strategies.

(c) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall implement appropriate training for designated anti-corruption points of contact under subsection (a).

SEC. 705. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2026, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on implementation of this title, including a description of the following:

(A) The offices within the Department and the United States Agency for International Development that are engaging in significant anti-corruption activities.

(B) The findings and actions of designated anti-corruption points of contact to develop and implement risk mitigation strategies and ensure compliance with section 703.

(C) The training implemented under section 704(c).

(D) Management of the whole-of-government effort referred to in section 704(b) to combat corruption within the countries identified in section 702 and efforts to improve coordination across Federal departments and agencies.

(E) The risk assessment tools and mitigation strategies utilized by the Department and the Agency.

(F) Other information determined by the Secretary to be necessary and appropriate.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report under this subsection shall be submitted in an unclassified format but may include a classified annex.

(b) ONLINE PLATFORM.—The Secretary shall consolidate existing reports with anti-corruption components into one online, public platform, which should—

(1) include—

(A) the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices;

(B) the annual Fiscal Transparency Report;

(C) the annual Investment Climate Statements;

(D) the annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report;

(E) the Country Scorecards of the Millennium Challenge Corporation; and

(F) any other relevant public reports; and

(2) link to third-party indicators and compliance mechanisms used by the United States Government to inform policy and programming, such as—

(A) the International Finance Corporation's Doing Business surveys;

(B) the International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Index; and

(C) multilateral peer review anti-corruption compliance mechanisms, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, done at New York October 31, 2003, to further highlight expert international views on country challenges and country efforts.

(c) TRAINING.—The Secretary and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall incorporate anti-corruption components into existing Foreign Service and Civil Service training courses to—

(1) increase the ability of Department and Agency personnel to support anti-corruption as a foreign policy priority; and

(2) strengthen the ability of such personnel to design, implement, and evaluate more effective anti-corruption programming around the world, including enhancing skills to better evaluate and mitigate public corruption risks in assistance programs.

SEC. 706. FOREIGN INVESTMENTS AND NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter for the following six years, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of National Intelligence, and the heads of other agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to Congress an interagency strategy to work with foreign governments and multilateral institutions to guard against the risks of certain transactions involving foreign investments.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each interagency strategy under paragraph (1) shall include plans relating to the following:

(1) Information sharing with foreign governments and multilateral institutions regarding risks associated with potential foreign investments.

(2) Promoting American and other alternatives to foreign investments identified as presenting substantial risk to the national security or sovereignty of a country.

(3) Providing technical assistance to foreign governments or multilateral institutions regarding screening foreign investments.

(4) Designating points of contact at each United States mission to foreign governments and multilateral institutions, and in associated regional bureaus, to coordinate efforts described in this paragraph.

(c) COORDINATION.—If the Secretary determines such is appropriate, the designated points of contact referred to in subsection (b)(4) may be the same individual designated under section 704(a).

TITLE VIII—MATTERS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “International Security Assistance Act of 2019”.

SEC. 802. SECURITY ASSISTANCE DEFINED.

In this title, the term “security assistance” means—

(1) assistance under chapter 8 (relating to international narcotics control) of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961;

(2) assistance under chapter 2 (military assistance), chapter 5 (international military education and training), chapter 6 (peacekeeping operations), chapter 8 (antiterrorism

assistance), and chapter 9 (nonproliferation and export control assistance) of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961;

(3) assistance under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (relating to the Foreign Military Financing program); and

(4) sales of defense articles or defense services, extensions of credits (including participations in credits), and guaranties of loans under the Arms Export Control Act.

Subtitle A—Reform Relating to Security Assistance

SEC. 811. ORGANIZATIONAL REFORM.

(a) WORKING GROUP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Working Group on matters relating to security assistance (in this subtitle referred to as the “Working Group”).

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall be composed of—

(i) the Deputy Secretary of State; and
(ii) each Under Secretary of State responsible for matters relating to security assistance.

(B) CHAIR.—The Deputy Secretary shall serve as the chair of the Working Group.

(3) MEETINGS.—The Working Group shall meet not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and on a quarterly basis thereafter.

(4) DUTIES.—The duties of the Working Group shall include—

(A) within the Department and across United States diplomatic posts—

(i) providing strategic policy guidance on objectives and priorities for security assistance;

(ii) ensuring strategic integration of budgets and planning for security assistance; and

(iii) advising the Secretary on all budgets, programs, and activities for security assistance; and

(B) overseeing Department of State coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies on all matters relating to security assistance.

(b) OFFICE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall designate an existing office or establish a new office to be the Office of Security Assistance (in this subtitle referred to as the “Office”), which shall report to an Under Secretary who is a member of the Working Group.

(2) COORDINATOR.—The head of the Office shall be the Coordinator for Security Assistance (in this subtitle referred to as the “Coordinator”), who shall be an individual of demonstrated competency in the fields of security assistance and international diplomacy.

(3) DUTIES.—The duties of the Coordinator shall include—

(A) within the Department and across United States diplomatic posts—

(i) guiding and supporting security assistance;

(ii) advising the Working Group on all matters relating to security assistance;

(iii) establishing the framework described in section 813(a);

(iv) coordinating the assessment, monitoring, and evaluation program established under section 813(c); and

(v) maintaining the common database described in section 814(a); and

(B) acting as a Department of State point of contact with the Department of Defense, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other relevant Federal departments and agencies on all matters relating to security assistance.

(c) COORDINATION WITHIN DEPARTMENT.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and subject to paragraph (2), the head of each bureau of the Department that is involved in directing or implementing security assistance shall designate an officer of such bureau to be responsible for coordinating the responsibilities of such bureau with respect to security assistance.

(2) NON-ELIGIBILITY.—An officer of a bureau of the Department shall not be eligible to be designated pursuant to paragraph (1) if the officer is responsible for conducting human rights vetting pursuant to 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d).

(3) TRAINING.—Each individual designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall successfully complete the training described in section 812.

(d) COORDINATION WITHIN UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC POSTS.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the chief of mission of the United States in a foreign country that receives security assistance shall designate a senior diplomatic officer at the embassy or highest ranking diplomatic post if no embassy exists in the foreign country to be responsible for coordinating security assistance for the foreign country.

(2) DUTIES.—The senior diplomatic officer designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be responsible for—

(A) overseeing personnel and activities of Federal departments and agencies at the relevant embassy or diplomatic post with respect to the provision of security assistance for the country; and

(B) ensuring implementation of section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) and section 362 of title 10, United States Code, with respect to the country.

(3) TRAINING.—Each individual designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall successfully complete the training described in section 812.

(e) PLAN FOR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a plan for the organizational structure of the Department relating to security assistance programs.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An identification of each bureau and office of the Department that carries out functions relating to planning, coordination, integration, implementation, or evaluation of security assistance, a description of the organizational hierarchy and decision-making processes used to coordinate across such bureaus and offices and with United States diplomatic posts and other Federal departments and agencies, and a description of how the Working Group and the Coordinator will facilitate coordination among each such bureau and office.

(B) A description of—

(i) the reasons for—

(I) designating an existing office or establishing a new office to serve as the Office; and

(II) selecting the Under Secretary to which the Office will report;

(ii) the organizational structure of the Office;

(iii) the specific mechanisms through which the Working Group and Coordinator could improve coordination among bureaus and offices of the Department involved in the

planning or implementation of security assistance programs and activities; and

(iv) the process by which the requirement for training described in section 812 will be fulfilled.

(C) The benefits, feasibility, and steps necessary to detail personnel—

(i) on a reimbursable basis from the relevant bureaus and offices of the Department to provide staff to the Office; and

(ii) from USAID, the Department of Defense, and other relevant Federal departments and agencies to provide staff to the Office.

(D) An identification of lessons learned from the Security Governance Initiative (SGI), an assessment of the utility of expanding the SGI or a similar initiative globally, and a description of where best to locate the SGI or similar initiative within the Department.

(E) An identification of an appropriate bureau or office of the Department, whose head does not report to the Under Secretary described in subsection (b)(1), to select and retain the independent research entity described in section 813(c)(4).

(F) A list of recommendations for any additional legislative measures necessary to improve the capacity and capabilities of the Department to plan and implement security assistance programs and activities.

(3) FORM.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.

(4) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall consult with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate regarding the development and implementation of the plan required under paragraph (1).

SEC. 812. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall carry out the following:—

(1) Establish curriculum at the Department's Foreign Service Institute to provide employees of the Department of State with specialized training with respect to security assistance. The training should be aligned with the Security Cooperation Workforce Development Program and developed in coordination with the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, including through an agreement under section 1535(a) of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Economy Act”) or any other appropriate agency-specific authority. The training shall include the following:

(A) Awareness of the full range of agencies, offices, personnel, statutory authorities, funds, and programs involved in security assistance and transfers and the respective decision-making timelines.

(B) Familiarity with relevant military and police security force systems and structures and institutions at the time such training is occurring.

(C) Familiarity with security assistance reform, research regarding options for improvement, and United States interagency and external resources and experts.

(D) Familiarity with planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation for programmatic activities.

(E) Familiarity with implementation of—

(i) section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) and section 362 of title 10, United States Code;

(ii) arms transfer requirements under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.); and

(iii) best practices related to human rights and civilian protection.

(F) Awareness of common risks to effectiveness of security assistance, including corruption, political instability, and challenges relating to absorptive capacity, partner commitment, and transparency.

(2) Coordinate with the Secretary of Defense, to the extent feasible, to ensure that, in addition to the training described in paragraph (1), individuals who serve in priority recipient countries or countries that do not meet baseline norms of governance, as determined by the Under Secretary for purposes of subsections (d)(1) and (d)(4) of section 813, obtain higher-level certification through the Defense Security Cooperation Agency's Defense Institute of Security Cooperation Studies or through a commensurate program developed at the Department's Foreign Service Institute prior to serving at the United States diplomatic post in such country.

SEC. 813. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING.

(a) **FRAMEWORK AND STANDARDS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coordinator shall create and submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a framework to be used by relevant bureaus and diplomatic posts to guide regional and country-specific planning, such as joint regional strategies or integrated country strategies, with respect to security assistance. Such framework shall include the following:

(1) Identification and prioritization of overall goals and objectives for security assistance, in accordance with the relevant National Security Strategy.

(2) Criteria for—

(A) determining the commitment and political will of countries receiving assistance to use such assistance in a manner that achieves United States objectives;

(B) identifying opportunities and risks created by the provision of security assistance; and

(C) tailoring and sequencing such assistance accordingly.

(3) Guidance for—

(A) incorporating the assessment, monitoring, and evaluation program described in subsection (c) into the strategic planning cycle;

(B) increasing coordination, as appropriate, with other major international donors to maximize resources and unity of efforts;

(C) aligning the security assistance programs, projects, and activities of the Department with other United States goals of engagement with foreign countries, such as the promotion of democracy, human rights, governance, and economic growth, as well as with other United States assistance authorities, resources, programmatic capabilities, and activities; and

(D) assessing the impact on Department security assistance objectives, programs, and activities of United States military activities in the country or region covered by country or regional strategy, including the number of United States forces deployed, the duration of deployment, the purpose for which they were deployed, and the authority under which they are operating.

(4) Metrics for assessing the effectiveness of security assistance in—

(A) increasing the operational access and influence of the United States;

(B) improving partner capacity and commitment to countering shared threats and increased burden sharing, including in ways that enable reallocation of United States military deployments to other high priority missions;

(C) reducing the underlying drivers of state fragility; and

(D) contributing to the maintenance of existing peace treaties between recipients of assistance.

(5) A process to ensure that transfers regulated by the Department that are outside the scope of security assistance, such as certain direct commercial sales, are factored into—

(A) the implementation of the assessment, monitoring, and evaluation program described in subsection (c); and

(B) the planning process described in subsection (d).

(b) **DEFINITIONS PROMULGATED BY THE WORKING GROUP.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall—

(1) in consultation with the Coordinator and bureaus and offices of the Department that are involved in the planning, coordination, integration, implementation, or evaluation of security assistance, develop and promulgate a definition of the level of security assistance programs, projects, or activities that mark a country as a recipient of "significant" security assistance to merit inclusion in the assessment, monitoring, and evaluation process described in subsection (c); and

(2) in consultation with the Coordinator, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, and the heads of other relevant bureaus of the Department, develop and promulgate a definition of baseline norms for governance and the rule of law, including a rubric to assess whether a recipient of security assistance is abiding by such baseline.

(c) **ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coordinator shall develop an assessment, monitoring, and evaluation program to be conducted for any country receiving significant security assistance, as defined in accordance with subsection (b)(1).

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The program described in paragraph (1) shall include each of the following elements:

(A) Baseline assessments that consider factors, including—

(i) recipient country threat perceptions and the manner in which such perceptions may inform the use of security assistance;

(ii) the recipient's approach to governance and commitment to rule of law, including the transparency and accountability of security forces, and the manner in which such approach is likely to be influenced by security assistance;

(iii) the recipient's capacity to absorb the security assistance given and to achieve the objectives of such assistance;

(iv) the human rights record of the recipient, including for purposes of section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) and section 362 of title 10, United States Code, and any relevant attempts by such recipient to remedy such record;

(v) country- or region-specific opportunities and risks that could enhance or impair the outcomes associated with providing security assistance; and

(vi) indicators of efficacy for security assistance programs, projects, and activities, for purposes of planning, monitoring, and evaluation.

(B) Monitoring implementation of security assistance programs, projects, and activities to measure progress toward achieving specific targets, metrics, or indicators, as well as desired outcomes.

(C) Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of security assistance in achieving desired outcomes.

(D) Identification of lessons learned in carrying out security assistance and recommendations for improving future assistance.

(3) **OVERSIGHT AND FRAMEWORK.**—The Coordinator shall guide and support, in coordination with relevant regional and functional bureaus, the assessment and monitoring described in paragraph (1) and shall create a common evaluation framework.

(4) **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ENTITY.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a contract with an independent research entity, such as a federally funded research and development center or other non-profit entity, that demonstrates appropriate expertise and analytical capability to evaluate the capacity of security assistance to achieve desired outcomes in accordance with the framework created pursuant to paragraph (3).

(5) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the ability of the Department to measure and assess the effects of United States security assistance programs and activities on governance, rule of law, professionalism of recipient security forces, and institutional capacity weaknesses of recipient security forces would benefit from the increased availability of independent research and data.

(d) **SECURITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING.**—

(1) **PRIORITIZATION.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Working Group shall develop a list of priority recipient countries to receive security assistance, on the basis of policy objectives determined by the Department, and submit such information in accordance with subsection (f).

(2) **INCLUSION IN REGIONAL AND COUNTRY STRATEGIES.**—Any comprehensive regional strategy, such as a joint regional strategy or its equivalent, and any country strategy, such as an integrated country strategy or its equivalent, that is produced on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each successor strategy to such strategy, shall integrate security assistance planning in a manner that incorporates the elements of the framework created pursuant to subsection (a) and include an annex relating to security assistance, which shall include—

(A) the assessment, monitoring, and evaluation metrics described in subsection (c);

(B) requests to allocate security assistance with respect to the area covered by the strategy; and

(C) a description of the manner in which such resources will be used.

(3) **COORDINATION OF RESOURCES.**—In developing annexes relating to security assistance for inclusion in comprehensive regional strategies or country strategies in accordance with paragraph (2), the relevant bureau, office, or diplomatic post shall coordinate with—

(A) the Office;

(B) the Office of Foreign Assistance Resources, or an equivalent entity in the Department, regarding the allocation of resources in line with priorities of the Department of State for security assistance; and

(C) the Department of Defense and other Federal departments and agencies that provide security assistance, security cooperation, or other forms of foreign assistance.

(4) **SECURITY ASSISTANCE, GOVERNANCE, AND RULE OF LAW.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, any annex relating to security assistance described in paragraph (2) that is included in a country strategy shall include an assessment by the Under Secretary responsible for civilian security, democracy, and human rights whether such country abides by baseline norms for governance and the rule of law using the rubric promulgated in accordance with subsection (b)(2). A security assistance

annex developed in accordance with paragraph (2) for a country receiving a negative determination shall also include the following:

(A) Reforms the recipient could undertake, where practicable, to improve governance and rule of law in order to create more effective security.

(B) Conditions, which may also be included in the compacts described in subsection (e), under which the United States might—

(i) expand or increase security assistance upon verifiable progress made toward such reforms; and

(ii) restrict or end security assistance as a result of lack of progress toward such reforms or further deterioration of norms for governance or the rule of law.

(C) An assessment of the benefits and likelihood of reaching agreement with the recipient country to devote 1 percent of the total value of all security assistance to such country for training in-country civilian professionals on methods to evaluate the fiscal and functional effectiveness of the security institutions in such country.

(D) The manner in which security assistance will be used to improve governance, rule of law, and human rights reforms in such country.

(E) Steps to ensure consultation with the national legislature and with civil society groups that operate in such country on the provision of security assistance, including for the formulation of a compact in accordance with subsection (e)(2).

(e) SECURITY ASSISTANCE COMPACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall seek to enter into multi-year compacts where appropriate with the governments of countries that receive security assistance. Such compacts should include the following elements:

(A) A joint diagnosis of the strengths and challenges of the recipient country's security institutions, including priority capacity and capability requirements.

(B) A plan for bilateral security assistance and cooperation that includes—

(i) a commitment by the recipient specifying the manner in which security assistance will be used, within a defined timeframe;

(ii) plans for sustainment by the recipient of any capacity or capabilities built as a result of such assistance; and

(iii) mutually agreed oversight mechanisms for security assistance and metrics, to determine whether such assistance is accomplishing the agreed-upon objectives.

(2) SPECIAL PROVISIONS.—If the Under Secretary described in subsection (d)(3) assesses that a country is not abiding by baseline norms for governance or the rule of law, a compact under this subsection with such country should, where practicable, be formulated in consultation with the national legislature and domestic civil society groups and include mutually agreed upon reforms and conditions based on those established as a result of such determination in accordance with subsection (d)(4).

(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning three years after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall include with any materials submitted in support of the budget for that fiscal year that is submitted to Congress by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31 an unclassified report, that may include a classified annex, with the following:

(1) A list of priority security assistance recipients, along with descriptions of the policy objectives that the Secretary seeks to achieve by providing such assistance to such recipients, developed pursuant to subsection (d)(1).

(2) A description of the results of the evaluations conducted pursuant to subsection (c)(4).

(3) A description of the manner in which the Department will allocate, monitor, and evaluate all security assistance pursuant to the program described in subsection (c) and the planning process described in subsection (d).

(4) A description of any updates made during the previous year to the framework described in subsection (d)(1) and annex relating to security assistance required under subsection (d)(2).

(5) The status and impact on United States objectives of any compacts entered into in accordance with subsection (e) and of any ongoing efforts to enter into new compacts in accordance with such subsection.

SEC. 814. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE, TRANSFERS, AND SECURITY COOPERATION.

(a) CREATION OF A COMMON DATABASE.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall maintain a common database of information to permit the identification of security assistance programs, funding, and transfers by recipient country.

(b) COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that assesses existing mechanisms, including provisions under title 10, United States Code, that require the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and other applicable provisions of law that provide for coordination between security assistance programs, projects, and activities of the Department of State and security cooperation programs, projects, and activities of the Department of Defense that includes the following:

(A) An identification of existing coordination mechanisms for planning, executing, and overseeing security assistance and security cooperation programs, projects, and activities, the purpose of such mechanisms, and their efficacy in practice.

(B) An identification of additional measures that would improve the speed, simplicity, or agility of each identified mechanism, with a focus on mechanisms requiring the concurrence of the Secretary.

(C) An identification of any programs, authorities, or resources that do not require coordination under existing law.

(D) An identification of the specific mechanisms to improve coordination between Department of State bureaus and offices involved in planning, executing, or overseeing security assistance programs and activities and the United States combatant command or commands relevant to such bureaus and offices.

(E) An assessment of the advisability and feasibility of expanding existing mechanisms or establishing new mechanisms to detail employees from Department of State bureaus and offices involved in planning, executing, or overseeing security assistance programs and activities to United States combatant commands and from the Department of Defense to such Department of State bureaus and offices for the purpose of improving coordination on security assistance planning and implementation.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense should jointly establish a pilot program to evaluate the advisability and feasibility of a joint entity to conduct collaborative planning of security assistance and security cooperation. The pilot program should—

(1) establish one or more joint planning cells to conduct collaborative planning between the Department of State and the Department of Defense for security assistance and security cooperation programs, projects, and activities in a specific region or regions;

(2) assign personnel from relevant offices and agencies within each Department to staff the joint planning cell or cells; and

(3) assess the advantages and disadvantages of collaborative interagency planning of security assistance, and determine whether there are organizational, legal, policy, or resource barriers to broader adoption of such a model.

SEC. 815. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle shall affect the implementation of subsection (h) of section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776).

Subtitle B—Foreign Military Assistance

SEC. 821. STRATEGIC ALLOCATION OF EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “(1) The President” and inserting “The President”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as paragraphs (1) through (6), respectively, and moving the margins of each such paragraph two ems to the left; and

(C) by striking “(2) Accordingly,” and all that follows through “1990.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) PRIORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, excess defense articles under this section shall be transferred in accordance with United States foreign policy, including national security priorities as jointly determined by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to the maximum extent feasible.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) SUPPORTING COSTS.—The Department of State is authorized to expend funds available for security assistance for the refurbishment or upgrade of excess defense articles transferred under the authority of this section and for training of foreign security forces directly in relation to excess defense articles transferred under the authority of this section, if—

“(A) such assistance is necessary to advance the national security objectives of the United States in relation to the recipient country or countries; and

“(B) such costs do not exceed \$10 million in relation to a single transfer of excess defense articles under this section.”;

(3) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “\$7,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and

(4) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “\$500,000,000” and inserting “\$600,000,000”.

SEC. 822. MODIFICATION OF PURPOSES FOR WHICH MILITARY SALES BY THE UNITED STATES ARE AUTHORIZED.

Section 4 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2754) is amended in the first sentence by striking “internal security” and inserting “legitimate internal security (including for anti-terrorism purposes)”.

SEC. 823. RETURN OF DEFENSE ARTICLES.

Section 21(m)(1)(B) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761(m)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(B) is not” and inserting “(B)(i) is not”;

(2) by striking “; and” and inserting “; or”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) is significant military equipment (as defined in section 47(9) of this Act) and the Secretary of State has provided prior approval of the return of such defense article from the foreign country or international organization; and”.

SEC. 824. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FOR LICENSING OF DEFENSE ITEMS.

Section 38(j) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(j)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading—

(A) by striking “COUNTRY”; and

(B) by striking “TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES”;

(2) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(i) by striking “a foreign country” and inserting “the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, any member country of that Organization, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, or Israel”;

(ii) by inserting “(except that the President may not so exempt such Organization, member country, or other country that is not eligible to acquire defense items under any other provision of law)” after “with respect to exports of defense items”; and

(iii) by striking “the foreign country” and inserting “such Organization, member country, or other country”; and

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) by striking “the foreign country” and inserting “such Organization, member country, or other country”; and

(ii) by striking “under their domestic laws”;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) by striking “, at a minimum,”;

(II) by striking “the foreign country” and inserting “the Organization, member country, or other country referred to in paragraph (1)”;

(III) by striking “to revise its policies and practices, and promulgate or enact necessary modifications to its laws and regulations to establish” and inserting “to establish and maintain”;

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “the foreign country” and inserting “such Organization, member country, or other country”; and

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking “retransfer control commitments, including securing” and inserting “retransfer controls that secure”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) by striking “, at a minimum,”;

(II) by striking “the foreign country” and inserting “the Organization, member country, or other country referred to in paragraph (1)”;

(III) by striking “to revise its policies and practices, and promulgate or enact necessary modifications to its laws and regulations”; and

(ii) in clause (iv), by striking “the foreign country” and inserting “the member country or other country”; and

(4) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “a foreign country” and inserting “the Organization, member country, or other country referred to in paragraph (1)”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “that foreign country” and inserting “such Organization, member country, or other country”;

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “the foreign country” and inserting “such Organization, member country, or other country”; and

(ii) by striking “has promulgated or enacted all necessary modifications to its laws and regulations to comply” and inserting “has taken such actions to comply”; and

(D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “a foreign country” and inserting “such Organization, member country, or other country”; and

(ii) by striking “that country” and inserting “such Organization, member country, or other country”.

SEC. 825. AMENDMENT TO GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Section 42(a) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2791(a)) is amended in the first sentence by inserting “on a competitive basis” after “procurement in the United States”.

SEC. 826. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

Section 36(b)(6) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)(6)) is amended by inserting “the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or” before “a member country”.

SEC. 827. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON LICENSING UNDER UNITED STATES ARMS EXPORT CONTROL PROGRAMS.

It is the sense of Congress that, in implementing reforms of United States arms export licensing regimes, the President should prioritize the development of a new framework to improve and streamline licensing, including by seeking to revise the Special Comprehensive Export Authorizations for exports to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, any member country of that Organization, Sweden, or any other country described in section 36(c)(2)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A)) under section 126.14 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations).

SEC. 828. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVE STOCKPILE AUTHORITY.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005.—Section 12001(d) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-287; 118 Stat. 1011) is amended by striking “2020” and inserting “2021”.

(b) STOCKPILING OF DEFENSE ARTICLES FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Section 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “and 2020” and inserting “2020, and 2021”.

SEC. 829. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 551 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2348) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “The President” and inserting “(a) The President”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Funds authorized to be appropriated under this chapter may also be used to provide assistance to enhance the capacity of foreign civilian security forces (as such term is defined in section 841(c) of the International Security Assistance Act of 2019) to participate in peacekeeping and counterterrorism operations, and to promote greater participation of women in such peacekeeping operations.

“(c) Funds authorized to be appropriated under this chapter to provide assistance to

friendly foreign countries for purposes other than support for multilateral peacekeeping operations shall be subject to the certification requirements of section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776).”.

(2) DISARMAMENT AND REINTEGRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds authorized to be appropriated under any provision of law for peacekeeping operations may be made available to support programs to disarm, demobilize, and reintegrate into civilian society former members of foreign terrorist organizations, and to promote greater participation of women in such programs.

(B) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate prior to obligating funds described in subparagraph (A).

(C) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term “foreign terrorist organization” means an organization designated as a terrorist organization under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)).

(b) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate at least 15 days prior to obligating funds under any provision of law for peacekeeping operations.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for chapter 6 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2348 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following: “AND OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS”.

SEC. 830. OTHER AMENDMENTS TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITIES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended as follows:

(1) In section 516 (22 U.S.C. 2321j)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “countries” and inserting “countries, regional organizations, and international organizations”;

(B) in subsection (b)(5), as redesignated by section 821(a)(1)(B), by striking “countries” and inserting “countries, regional organizations, and international organizations”;

(C) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “recipient country” and inserting “recipient country or organization”;

(D) in subsection (f)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “country” each place it appears and inserting “country or organization”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “countries” and inserting “countries or organizations”;

(E) in subsection (h), by striking “country” and inserting “country and organization”.

(2) In section 620M (22 U.S.C. 2378d)—

(A) in subsection (d)(7), by striking “to the maximum extent practicable” and inserting “unless such disclosure would endanger the safety of human sources or reveal sensitive intelligence sources and methods”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 31 of each year, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, a report on the vetting process of units of security forces of foreign countries established to comply with this section.

“(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) The total number of units submitted for vetting during the prior calendar year, and the number of such units that were approved, suspended, or rejected for human rights reasons.

“(B) The name of such units rejected during the prior calendar year and a description of the steps taken to assist the government of the foreign country in bringing the responsible members of such units to justice, in accordance with subsection (c).

“(C) An updated list of the units with respect to which no assistance is to be furnished pursuant to subsection (a).”

(3) In section 622(c) (22 U.S.C. 2382(c)), by inserting “law enforcement and justice sector assistance,” before “military assistance.”

(4) In section 656(a)(1) (22 U.S.C. 2416(a)(1)), by striking “January 31” and inserting “March 1”.

SEC. 831. REPEAL OF REPORTS.

(a) REPEAL OF ANNUAL REPORT ON WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURES AND ARMS TRANSFERS.—Section 404 of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act (22 U.S.C. 2593b) is hereby repealed.

(b) REPEAL OF ANNUAL REPORT RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE.—Section 5 of Public Law 94-304 (22 U.S.C. 3005) is hereby repealed.

(c) REPEAL OF REPORT ON ASSISTANCE RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.—Section 502 of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (22 U.S.C. 2349aa-7) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).

SEC. 832. DEFENSE TRADE CONTROLS REGISTRATION FEES.

Section 45 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2717) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by inserting “defense trade controls” after “100 percent of the”; and

(B) by striking “the Office of Defense Trade Controls of”; and

(2) in the second sentence—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “management, licensing, compliance, and policy activities in the defense trade controls function, including” after “incurred for”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “contract personnel to assist in”; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) the facilitation of defense trade policy development and implementation, review of commodity jurisdiction determinations, public outreach to industry and foreign parties, and analysis of scientific and technological developments as they relate to the exercise of defense trade control authorities; and

“(5) contract personnel to assist in such activities.”

SEC. 833. WITHHOLDING OF ASSISTANCE TO UNITS OF FOREIGN SECURITY FORCES THAT ENGAGED IN SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR ABUSE IN PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended by inserting after section 554 the following:

“SEC. 555. WITHHOLDING OF ASSISTANCE TO UNITS OF FOREIGN SECURITY FORCES THAT ENGAGED IN SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR ABUSE IN PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State should withhold assistance to any unit of the

security forces of a foreign country if the Secretary has credible information that such unit has engaged in sexual exploitation or abuse, including while serving in a United Nations peacekeeping operation, until the Secretary determines that the government of such country is taking effective steps to hold the responsible members of such unit accountable and to prevent future incidents.

“(b) NOTICE.—The Secretary of State—

“(1) shall promptly notify the government of each country subject to any withholding of assistance pursuant to this section; and

“(2) shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of such withholding not later than 10 days after a determination to withhold such assistance is made.

“(c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State shall, to the maximum extent practicable, assist the government of each country subject to any withholding of assistance pursuant to this section in bringing the responsible members of such unit of the security forces of the country to justice.

“(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.”

SEC. 834. MODIFICATION TO LIMITATIONS ON ASSISTANCE RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

(a) MODIFICATION TO THE LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO SECURITY FORCES.—Subsection (a) of section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) is amended—

(1) by inserting “, including any combined security activities or operations with any such unit,” after “of a foreign country”; and

(2) by inserting “, including any act that constitutes a war crime, as such term is defined in section 2441 of title 18, United States Code” after “gross violation of human rights”.

(b) MODIFICATION TO LIMITATION ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (d)(1) of section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304) is amended by inserting “any act that constitutes a war crime, as such term is defined in section 2441 of title 18, United States Code,” after “the abduction and clandestine detention of those persons.”

Subtitle C—Studies on Authorities and Programs

SEC. 841. REQUIREMENT FOR STUDY BY BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, in consultation with the heads of other relevant bureaus of the Department, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report detailing all existing programs, and their statutory authorities, that provide training, advice, equipment, and other support to eligible foreign civilian security forces and institutions.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Such a report shall assess the following:

(1) The benefits and costs of consolidating the number of such programs and expanding the scope of such programs, as appropriate.

(2) The prospects for improving coordination among such programs.

(3) The impact of repealing section 660 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2420), including—

(A) the potential opportunities such repeal would create for expanding existing programs or establishing new programs to improve the capacity, capabilities, and professionalism of such civilian security forces and institutions, including with respect to pay and promotions, benefits, leadership, and administration; and

(B) the required elements necessary to ensure that any such program would enhance rule of law and safeguard human rights.

(c) CIVILIAN SECURITY FORCES.—In this section, the term “civilian security forces” includes non-military security forces at the national, state, district, or local level that are responsible for internal security, do not report to a defense ministry or similar or related defense or military entity of a foreign government, and are assigned responsibility for one or more of the following:

- (1) Law enforcement.
- (2) Border security.
- (3) Maritime and port security.
- (4) Customs law enforcement.
- (5) Sanctions monitoring and enforcement.
- (6) Counterterrorism.
- (7) Counter-narcotics.
- (8) Counterproliferation.
- (9) Counter-transnational organized crime.
- (10) Improving the administration of justice.
- (11) Promoting respect for human rights.
- (12) Promoting the rule of law.

SEC. 842. REQUIREMENT FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY OF EXISTING SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center with appropriate expertise and analytical capability to carry out the study described in subsection (b).

(b) STUDY.—The study required by subsection (a) shall provide for a comprehensive examination of—

(1) the history and evolution of existing security assistance authorities and the original intent of such authorities;

(2) areas in which—

(A) such authorities have deviated from such original intent and explanations why; and

(B) such authorities overlap or compete with one another; and

(3) recommendations for consolidating, replacing, or otherwise adapting such authorities, as well as for establishing new ones, to include recommendations for differentiating authorities based on the capacity and capabilities they build as opposed to by issue or purpose.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later than one year after the date on which , the Secretary enters into a contract pursuant to subsection (a), the independent research entity that has entered into a contract with the Secretary shall submit to the Secretary a report containing—

(A) the results of the study required by subsection (a); and

(B) such recommendations to improve the effectiveness of existing security assistance authorities as the entity considers to be appropriate.

(2) TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit such report, together with any additional views or recommendations of the Secretary, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 901. CASE-ZABLOCKI ACT REFORM.

Section 112b of title 1, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Committee on International Relations” and inserting “Committee on Foreign Affairs”; and

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) Each department or agency of the United States Government that enters into any international agreement described in subsection (a) on behalf of the United States, shall designate a Chief International Agreements Officer, who—

“(1) shall be a current employee of such department or agency;

“(2) shall serve concurrently as Chief International Agreements Officer; and

“(3) subject to the authority of the head of such department or agency, shall have department or agency-wide responsibility for efficient and appropriate compliance with subsection (a) to transmit the text of any international agreement to the Department of State not later than 20 days after such agreement has been signed.”.

SEC. 902. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN DEFAULT.

Section 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2370(q)) is amended—

(1) by striking “No assistance” and inserting the following:

“(1) No assistance”;

(2) by inserting “the government of” before “any country”;

(3) by inserting “the government of” before “such country” each place it appears;

(4) by striking “determines” and all that follows and inserting “determines, after consultation with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, that assistance for such country is in the national interest of the United States.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) No assistance shall be furnished under this Act, the Peace Corps Act, the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, the African Development Foundation Act, the BUILD Act of 2018, section 504 of the FREEDOM Support Act, or section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act to the government of any country which is in default during a period in excess of 1 calendar year in payment to the United States of principal or interest or any loan made to the government of such country by the United States unless the President determines, following consultation with the congressional committees specified in paragraph (1), that assistance for such country is in the national interest of the United States.”.

SEC. 903. PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Subsection (a) of section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371) is amended by striking “that the government of that country” and all that follows and inserting “that the government of that country—

“(1) has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism;

“(2) grants sanctuary from prosecution to any individual or group which has committed an act of international terrorism;

“(3) otherwise supports international terrorism; or

“(4) is controlled by an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).”.

(b) RESCISSION.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking “and the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate” and inserting “, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committees

on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate”.

(c) WAIVER.—Subsection (d)(2) of such section is amended by striking “and the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate” and inserting “, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate”.

(d) PROHIBITION ON LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT EXPORTS.—Such section, as so amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) PROHIBITION ON LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT EXPORTS.—

“(1) PROHIBITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States shall not provide any assistance under this Act or section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act to any foreign government that provides lethal military equipment to a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined supports international terrorism for purposes of section 1754(c) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018.

“(B) TERMINATION.—The prohibition on assistance under subparagraph (A) with respect to a foreign government shall terminate 12 months after such government ceases to provide the lethal military equipment described in such subparagraph.

“(C) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies with respect to lethal military equipment provided under a contract entered into after October 1, 1997.

“(2) WAIVER.—The President may waive the prohibition on assistance under paragraph (1) with respect to a foreign government if the President determines that to do so is important to the national interest of the United States.

“(3) REPORT.—Upon the exercise of the waiver authority pursuant to paragraph (2), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report with respect to the furnishing of assistance under the waiver authority, including—

“(A) a detailed explanation of the assistance to be provided;

“(B) the estimated dollar amount of such assistance; and

“(C) an explanation of how the assistance furthers the national interest of the United States.

“(4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.”.

SEC. 904. ESTABLISHING A COORDINATOR FOR ISIS DETAINEE ISSUES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, acting through the Secretary, may designate an existing official within the Department to serve as senior-level coordinator to coordinate, in conjunction with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, all matters for the United States Government relating to the long-term disposition of ISIS detainees, including all matters in connection with—

(1) repatriation, transfer, prosecution, and intelligence-gathering;

(2) coordinating a whole-of-government approach with other countries and international organizations, including INTERPOL, to ensure secure chains of custody and locations of ISIS detainees;

(3) coordinating the provision of technical and evidentiary assistance to foreign coun-

tries to aid in the successful prosecution of ISIS detainees; and

(4) all multilateral and international engagements led by the Department and other relevant Federal departments and agencies that are related to the current and future handling, detention, or prosecution of ISIS detainees.

(b) RETENTION OF EXISTING AUTHORITY.—The appointment of a senior-level coordinator pursuant to subsection (a) shall not deprive any Federal department or agency of any existing authority to independently perform the functions of that agency relating to ISIS detainees.

(c) ISIS DETAINEE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “ISIS detainee” means a captured individual—

(1) who allegedly fought for or supported the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria; and

(2) who is a national of a country other than Iraq or Syria.

SEC. 905. SEAN AND DAVID GOLDMAN CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION AND RETURN ACT OF 2014 AMENDMENT.

Subsection (b) of section 101 of the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9111; Public Law 113-150) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting “, respectively,” after “access cases”; and

(ii) by inserting “and the number of children involved” before the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “respectively, the number of children involved,” after “access cases.”;

(2) in paragraph (7), by inserting “, and number of children involved in such cases” before the semicolon at the end;

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(4) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(10) the total number of pending cases the Department of State has assigned to case officers and number of children involved for each country and as a total for all countries.”.

SEC. 906. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES OF COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICA'S HERITAGE ABROAD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3123 of title 54, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 312302, by inserting “, and unimpeded access to those sites,” after “and historic buildings”.

(2) In section 312304(a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “and historic buildings” and inserting “and historic buildings, and unimpeded access to those sites”; and

(ii) by striking “and protected” and inserting “, protected, and made accessible”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “and protecting” and inserting “, protecting, and making accessible”.

(3) In section 312305, by inserting “and to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate” after “President”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad shall submit to the President and to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that contains an evaluation of the extent to which the Commission is prepared to continue its activities and accomplishments with respect to the foreign

heritage of United States citizens from eastern and central Europe, were the Commission's duties and powers extended to include other regions, including the Middle East and North Africa, and any additional resources or personnel the Commission would require.

TITLE X—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 1001. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3352.

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

There was no objection.

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

Let me first of all thank our ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, for working with me closely to bring this bipartisan piece of legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, one of our top priorities on the Foreign Affairs Committee is making sure that diplomacy is a pillar of American foreign policy. Diplomacy is the tool, Mr. Speaker, that we use around the world to defuse crises, to prevent conflicts, and to help build peace, stability, and prosperity. We use diplomacy, along with development, to strengthen friendships and to bridge divides.

We invest in these efforts because they help us project our values around the world, support democracy, human rights, and our country's spirit of compassion and generosity. We invest in diplomacy and development because they enhance our security.

Countries in regions that are more stable and governments that are more transparent and accountable mean that we have better partners on the world stage; they mean fewer places where conflict may erupt or extremism may take root.

The violence we can forestall through diplomacy means one less place where we may need to put American servicemembers in harm's way. So you would think, Mr. Speaker, with all the tremendous dividends we see from diplomacy and development, that the Congress would make sure that our agencies and our personnel responsible for this work always have the support and resources they need and that we are

working constantly to provide the tools needed to meet 21st century global challenges. That is why it is so amazing, Mr. Speaker, that the last time a State Department authorization was signed into law was the year 2002.

Just think of all the issues we are grappling with around the world that we could not have envisioned 17 years ago. We are asking the State Department to counter terrorist propaganda on social media. But the last time Congress gave the State Department its legislative due was 2 years before Facebook was invented, right around the time the first smartphones were coming on the market.

Let me be clear. Our diplomats have done a great job dealing with the challenges America faces, and our inability to get a State Department authorization signed into law is not for lack of trying. The Foreign Affairs Committee and the House have passed a number of bills that just did not make it across the finish line.

With the bill we are considering today, I hope we are starting a new trend. It contains a wealth of good provisions. I view it as an important start in breathing new life into the comprehensive, regular authorizing work Congress should do to support America's diplomacy and development efforts.

It will help the Department recruit and retain a diverse workforce so that our diplomats—our face to the world—look like the country they are representing.

It will enhance our Embassy and information security to keep these dedicated public servants safe. It authorizes absolutely essential investments in Embassy security, construction, and maintenance.

It will help to streamline the Department's management structure, strip out duplication, and cut away the deadwood from outdated reports. This will make sure the agency is flexible and nimble in a rapidly changing world.

It will focus on smart planning and rigorous evaluation so we know we are being effective in our diplomatic efforts.

Beyond what is in the bill, Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud of what this bill stands for. I have tremendous respect for our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I salute their work in regularly passing authorizing legislation for the agencies they oversee.

If we are serious about diplomacy and development as critical parts of our foreign policy and essential to our national security, then there is absolutely no reason that a State Department authorization bill should not be part of Congress' regular work.

□ 1545

Our committee has shown again and again that we can work together in a bipartisan way to advance our coun-

try's security. We pass a lot of legislation, often small fixes around the edges to get at a particular challenge.

With an authorization bill, we are sending a stronger message to our diplomats: As you carry out your critical and often dangerous work, we are going to have your backs.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are advancing this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the State Department Authorization Act of 2019, which I was proud to draft with the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), my friend and chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and I thank him for his strong bipartisan-

The last State Department reauthorization was signed into law in 2002. Imagine that, 2002, 1 year after 9/11.

In the 16 years since that authority lapsed, we have seen too many taxpayer dollars wasted on inefficient hiring and procurements, an expanding bureaucracy, and an outdated IT system that left us vulnerable to cyberattacks from foreign nations, states, and hackers.

It is the fundamental duty of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to pass an annual authorization bill. This is necessary to fulfill our constitutional Article I oversight responsibilities and our obligation to be good stewards of the people's money.

For these reasons, I am proud of this bipartisan bill that our committee has produced. It will address numerous longstanding difficulties. It will also fortify the Department and our diplomats with the tools they need to fulfill their missions to promote America overseas and enhance our national security.

Among other important reforms, the bill before us will modernize the workforce, eliminate outdated reports and special offices, prohibit expensive and unnecessary construction practices, impose rigorous monitoring and evaluation metrics, save taxpayer dollars, and reassert, as I mentioned before, our Article I prerogatives of Congress.

As the United States faces growing challenges from nation-states around the world, like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea, we need our Secretary and our diplomats to know that Congress fully supports them, and this bill does just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL, again, and his team for working with my staff and our members to ensure that this is a strongly bipartisan product; otherwise, it could not pass the House, Senate, and be signed into law. The chairman knows that, and I want to thank him, again, for working with me on this important legislation that we really haven't seen in over a decade.

This type of collaboration has been a hallmark of our work in this committee. I, for one, am very proud of

that work, and I know Chairman ENGEL is as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of this long overdue bill, which deserves our unanimous support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) for his kind words and his hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER), a valued member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3352, the Department of State Authorization Act.

I would like to first take a moment to thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL for their leadership on this authorization, the first in more than a decade. Truly, we are overdue.

As a former intelligence officer who has served abroad, I can attest to the vital contributions of the State Department and its workforce in keeping our American families safe and secure.

We need to give our diplomatic corps, civil service officers, and support staff the tools, resources, and training they deserve as they protect and uphold U.S. interests and values around the world.

Among this bill's strong provisions, I am proud to see my amendment pass committee to keep the State Department workforce safe from sexual harassment and assault.

Additionally, I urge my colleagues to approve my amendment to approve the security assistance coordination between the Department of State and the Department of Defense. This amendment would help Congress and the American people better understand how our military deployments support our diplomatic priorities.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important bill and to recognize and reinforce our appreciation for the tireless work of our diplomatic and civil service corps.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, for bringing this bill up, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), my good friend and colleague, the lead Republican on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

I can't tell you how important this bill is, and I rise today in support of H.R. 3352, the Department of State Authorization Act of 2019.

You heard how long it has been since we have passed this. It recently passed out of the Foreign Affairs Committee with wide bipartisan support. This is the hallmark of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and it shows the good work that is done and how important this is, and that is why the Foreign Affairs

Committee is the most important committee in the House.

This legislation helps support the important work that the State Department does and its diplomats do to protect our national security.

I have had the honor to travel on codels that are so important, and I encourage Members to do that, because it strengthens America's foreign policy, our engagement, and it leaves a belief in those other countries that America is here to be allies.

What I am always amazed at is the hard work of our State Department employees; and not reauthorizing a bill that gives them the ability to work, it kind of affects their attitude. So this is a critical bill to be approved at this time.

Despite the essential need for a fully functioning, operational Department, this is the first time in 6 years that there has been a comprehensive Department of State authorization bill.

It is the duty of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Congress as a whole to provide our departments with the necessary tools to advance the United States' foreign policy.

Again, I thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL for including the language from my bill, H.R. 1677, which repeals certain foreign affairs reporting requirements within the State Department. This provision will repeal, again, the unnecessary, redundant requirements that are outdated and no longer needed.

I would also like to commend my colleagues in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the staff for coming together and supporting a bipartisan bill that will protect America's national security. We must not let partisan divide continue to handicap our diplomats and their mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of this bill.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3352, the Department of State Authorization Act of 2019. This legislation helps put our diplomacy and development missions on firm footing by updating long-neglected authorities to reflect facts on the ground and strengthening the State Department's operations and workforce.

Diversity is a unique source of that strength and for our economy and national security. We must ensure that our Federal workforce reflects the American people it serves. That is why I am grateful that this bill includes the bulk of my National Security Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Act, H.R. 2979, promoting diversity in Federal national security offices.

That bill and the authorization bill before us today require regular reporting on demographic data related to State Department's workforce and di-

versity efforts and encourages State to expand recruitment and retention programs to facilitate a diverse workforce that looks like America.

I want to thank the chairman, in particular, and the ranking member for including this amendment as part of the bill to incentivize senior leaders to foster an inclusive environment and offer a career advancement program for senior positions, also encouraging a diverse participation.

I have collaborated with Federal employee groups to promote diversity within Federal agencies, and I welcome the opportunity to take a comprehensive approach in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I was a staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 10 years, and I helped write the last foreign aid bill, and that was in 1985. As the ranking member noted, it has been 17 years since we have brought a State Department authorization bill to full force in the law.

Credit goes to Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL and their respective staffs for bringing us to this point and, frankly, without any kind of adversity. It was the smoothest markup of a State Department bill I ever recall, and my hat is off to them. Mr. Speaker, they deserve a lot of congratulations. It is a good model for this bill.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WRIGHT), a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2019.

For our government to function as efficiently and effectively as possible, it is critical for us to revisit the resources and responsibilities of each department from time to time. As everyone has noted, but it is worth repeating, it has been 17 years since we enacted a comprehensive authorization bill for the State Department.

H.R. 3352, which enjoys broad bipartisan support, will bring our diplomacy into the future and save valuable taxpayer dollars by reasserting congressional authority, streamlining programs, eliminating duplicative reporting, and requiring measurements of programs' success.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL and lead Republican MCCAUL for including my bill, the Energy Diplomacy Act, in H.R. 3352.

Since 1977, when Congress formally gave the Secretary of State primary authority over energy-related foreign policy, there have been significant changes in the global energy landscape:

The United States is now the world's top producer of petroleum natural gas; We have also seen increased weaponization of energy by Russia against our EU and NATO allies, transforming energy into a critical national security issue.

This new challenge requires reaffirmed dedication and focus. The Energy Diplomacy Act does just that by

authorizing an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources and defining our energy security and diplomatic priorities.

This will ensure the State Department has adequate personnel to carry out its mandate and protect and advance the energy security interests of the United States, as well as those of our allies abroad.

Finally, this will advance U.S. energy exports by instructing our diplomats to work in tandem with U.S. energy companies operating abroad.

Combating Russia's maligned influence in Europe has been at the forefront of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs' agenda this year, and I firmly believe pushing back on Russia's energy dominance in Europe must be part of our strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, again, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the chair, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the lead Republican, for including the Energy Diplomacy Act in this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the Department of State Authorization Act.

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

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

I just want to say, as I said at the beginning, how proud I am to work with Chairman ENGEL, to draft this critical and overdue authorization bill.

I think it was mentioned previously, I think this is the most bipartisan committee on the Hill, and it should be, because we shouldn't bring partisanship to this body on issues of importance like this.

I want to thank the staff on the majority side for working with my staff on the minority side, and particularly, I want to thank Grant Mullins on my staff for his excellent work on this bill.

This doesn't happen by accident. It happens by design, and it happens when the staff can work together because the chair and the ranking member send a message, a message of leadership, in a tone that we want to get this done in a bipartisan way. And the beauty of that is, Mr. Speaker, that will give this bill, this authorization, the first one we have seen since 2002, the best opportunity to pass the Senate and be signed into law.

And, Mr. Speaker, this will be a hallmark of this Congress, I believe, when that fine event happens. It is exercising our constitutional prerogatives under Article I and our oversight role on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), my friend and partner, for his partnership.

This legislation really does represent the product of close bipartisan work on

this committee since the start of this Congress. So I wish to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and other members of the committee, both Democrats and Republicans.

And, again, I hope with this bill's passage today, the House is turning over a new leaf. Mr. Speaker, I am committed to making sure authorizing legislation for the State Department is something we do regularly and is something that this body considers as a must pass.

I am proud of our work on this bill. I want to thank my staff. I want to thank the staff on the minority side, as well. I am very proud of all of us working together as a team.

I urge all Members to support this, and, again, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

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

□ 1600

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3352, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SHORT-TERM DETENTION STANDARDS ACT

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3670) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure access to appropriate temporary shelter, food, and water for individuals apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3670

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 "Short-Term Detention Standards Act".

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE TEMPORARY SHELTER, FOOD, AND WATER DURING SHORT-TERM DETENTION.

Paragraph (1) of section 411(m) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(m)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE TEMPORARY SHELTER, FOOD, AND WATER.—The Commissioner shall make every effort to ensure the provision to an individual apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of appropriate temporary shelter with access to bathroom and shower facilities, water, appropriate nutrition, hygiene, personal grooming items, and sanitation needs."

SEC. 3. AUDIT AND INSPECTIONS OF DETENTION FACILITIES.

(a) OIG AND GAO.—The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security and the Comptroller General shall carry out regular audits and inspections, including unan-

nounced audits and inspections, of processes (including recordkeeping) utilized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to conduct intake and process individuals apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The Inspector General and Comptroller General shall, to the extent possible, share information and coordinate to ensure that Congress is provided timely audit and inspection information.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may not—

(1) prevent a Member of Congress or an employee of the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate designated by such a Member for the purposes of this section from entering, for the purpose of conducting oversight, any such facility; and

(2) make any temporary modification at any such facility that in any way alters what is observed by a visiting member of Congress or such designated employee, compared to what would be observed in the absence of such modification.

(c) PHOTOGRAPHS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, Comptroller General, a Member of Congress, or an employee of the United States House of Representatives or United States Senate shall be authorized to take photographs or video or audio recordings of conditions in a facility but may not publish photographs or video or audio recordings with personally identifiable information without permission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3670, the Short-Term Detention Standards Act.

This legislation is very simple. It requires humane conditions for migrants detained in short-term detention facilities at our ports of entry.

This legislation is premised on a very simple idea that defending our country's security and upholding humanitarian standards are not mutually exclusive. Anyone who believes that we can have only one or the other misunderstands America's core values.

Under current law, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 only requires that migrants in short-term detention have "adequate access to food and water." But we know from the heart-wrenching images that we have seen on TV and in news reports, and the findings of the Department of Homeland Security's own inspector general, that, too often, migrants are going without basic necessities.

In the last 2 months alone, the DHS inspector general released two management alerts, detailing poor conditions

and extreme overcrowding in El Paso and in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, where I just visited.

That is why I have introduced this bill, which expands the current requirement under law so that Customs and Border Protection must also provide migrants not only food and water but bathroom and shower facilities, appropriate nutrition, hygiene, personal grooming items, and sanitation needs.

Based on the reports we have all seen and the outcry from constituents in my district, I traveled to the southern border last week in one of the only bipartisan trips to have made it to the border. What I saw, from beginning to end, was tragedy and misery for every link in the chain.

It was misery for migrants, who were fearing death and persecution at home and risked their lives to walk 1,000 miles, often with their children, in the heat to seek asylum in the United States.

It was misery for the thousands of additional migrants who were just seeking a better life and to come to work in this country but have no easy, legal way to do that.

It was misery for the Customs and Border Protection officials and the Border Patrol officials who were not stood up and set up to do this, who have been demonized in the press, many of whom are first-generation Americans, in a situation they were never trained for.

It is misery top to bottom. That misery, for me, turned to anger because it is because of the inability of Washington to produce comprehensive immigration reform that that misery is happening.

There is so much more to do to alleviate the crisis at our southern border. I think all of my bipartisan colleagues, when we traveled to the border, felt that it was our duty to work on bipartisan legislation so that we can create a situation where people who we need in this country can come here legally, people who are seeking asylum can do it legally, and we do not have to put our customs and border officials in this kind of stressful situation.

I thank my Republican colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee who voted unanimously with me on this bill. I believe this is the first bill on standards at our southern border to be bipartisan. I am very proud of that. It is a commonsense proposal that I think Democrats, Republicans, and independents can all support.

To my colleagues who have not yet made up their minds, the standards outlined in this bill are simply the same standards for our inmates in our prisons that the Bureau of Prisons upholds. They are the same standards under the Geneva Convention that any U.S. soldier must uphold when we take in a prisoner of war.

Those are our bare minimum standards that represent our values, and I offer they should also be the exact same standards we afford people coming over our southern border.

The number of migrants coming over our southern border is overwhelming. It would overwhelm any administration, any political affiliation, but it does not abrogate our responsibility to maintain basic humanitarian standards in alignment with our values.

The Department of Homeland Security must do better. From my own trip last week, I know they want to do better.

As I said, I am particularly grateful to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who voiced support for this bill and who came on as cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do the right thing, help our country aspire to higher standards, and support H.R. 3670, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman from Michigan's efforts on this bill. I admire her for her compassion. I respect her intent and the spirit behind this bill, and I hope that we can work together to move forward.

My concern is with the letter of the law written within this bill. I know firsthand that showers are being provided and that personal hygiene products are immediately available to the unprecedented number of people in Customs and Border Protection custody, both from visits to the border myself and from regular communication with brothers and sisters of law enforcement who work the border, who are tasked with securing our border. I see regular emails, messages, videos, et cetera.

My concern with this bill is that it does not solve the problem, in my opinion.

Customs and Border Protection processing facilities are outdated. Many facilities were built decades ago. They were neither designed to process children and families nor the massive numbers of illegal immigrants arriving at our border on a daily basis.

Without providing funding for new Customs and Border Protection facilities, I am concerned that this bill would not fix the real problem, despite its obvious compassionate intent.

Instead of forcing Customs and Border Protection to provide a long list of amenities to illegal immigrants, we should be focused on quickly processing migrants and moving them out of Customs and Border Protection custody.

Unfortunately, many of my colleagues across the aisle have resisted providing funding for additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement bed space. People are being held at CPB much longer than was ever envisioned.

My colleagues across the aisle have supported policies that, in my opinion, have exacerbated the crisis by refusing to provide ICE with the resources it needs to get people out of short-term detention and into more suitable facilities for long-term holding.

This bill is attempting to solve problems that, some would argue, are caused by a Democratic policy decision to restrain funding for ICE and degrade its ability to hold illegal immigrants.

We should provide ICE the resources it needs to conduct its mission rather than imposing those responsibilities on Customs and Border Protection, men and women who are tasked with a completely different mission.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to address the specific points raised by the gentleman across the aisle.

The gentleman is correct. This bill is not meant to fix everything. It doesn't get to the root of the problem.

What it does is establish very basic humanitarian standards similar, almost exactly, to what we have for our prisoners of war and our prisoners. That is taken from the Geneva Convention. That is the international standard, and I want to meet those standards.

In many cases, the men and women of Customs and Border Protection and Border Patrol are absolutely meeting those standards. I think probably, at this point, most areas are. So, then, it shouldn't be a problem to enshrine it in actual law.

I also agree that we have a major problem in our immigration system. I believe that strongly and even more strongly after I went to the border this past week, and I look forward to my colleague working with us on bipartisan immigration reform.

I think this is a minimum standard. It is a humanitarian standard in line with our values. It is what our law enforcement officers and our uniform military already have to provide whenever they are in a position of detention.

I think this isn't difficult if we are already achieving, in most cases, these standards across the board.

Regarding the complaint that it doesn't solve every problem, it was never meant to. So let's focus on the bill at hand.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with the gentlewoman, for whom I have deep respect, that I believe that the humanitarian standards that the gentlewoman referred to are alive in the hearts of the men and women, the American men and women, who serve in Customs and Border Protection on the border. These Americans struggle to accomplish their mission despite overwhelming, almost impossible conditions and situations, masses of humanity, wave after wave of children of God.

Indeed, the role of this body, as envisioned by our Founders and supported

through the generations, is to allow the American spirit to manifest itself without regulation and enforced traditions and principles that are exhibited by the very Americans whom we serve.

I deeply respect the intent of this bill, although I have voiced my concern regarding the letter of the language of this bill and the purposes of my concern.

I would share with Congresswoman SLOTKIN that I am prepared to close. I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I deeply respect her effort, while standing in opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and the spirit with which they were delivered.

Let me say, as someone who is from Michigan, we depend upon our Customs and Border Protection agents, our Border Patrol agents, every single day for our own security, for awareness of what is coming over our border.

Mr. Speaker, we are a border State, so you are never going to find a bigger fan of Customs and Border Protection and Border Patrol. I was visiting with them in the past 10 days. They are doing yeoman's work, and I asked for their advice before I went to the southern border.

But we know that, despite their best efforts, the overwhelming number of people, combined with the complete inability to be prepared for such numbers, means that people were going without showers, and people were going without access to medical care. People were going without.

That is not what anyone wanted. I do not believe at all that people wanted that, but that was the reality. So I felt it was important to lay down a clear standard. I think the vast majority are adhering to that standard, and I think it is the bare minimum.

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

□ 1615

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3670, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FAMILY FARMER RELIEF ACT OF 2019

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2336) to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the definition of "family farmer", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2336

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 "Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF FAMILY FARMER.

Section 101(18) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking "\$3,237,000" each place that term appears and inserting "\$10,000,000".

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CICILLINE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2336, the Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019, would increase the current debt limit used to determine whether a family farmer is eligible for relief under chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code, a specialized form of bankruptcy relief specifically intended for family farmers, from approximately \$4.4 million to \$10 million.

Chapter 12 permits a family farmer who satisfies certain eligibility criteria to reorganize his or her debts pursuant to a repayment plan under the supervision of a bankruptcy trustee. The special attributes of chapter 12 make it better suited to meet the particularized needs of family farmers in financial distress than other forms of bankruptcy relief.

Under chapter 7, for example, the family farm and its assets would have to be liquidated to pay the claims of creditors, thus depriving the family farmer of his or her livelihood, which is completely unacceptable.

The chapter 11 process for reorganization, which is typically used by large corporations in economic distress to reorganize complex financial transactions, is also inappropriate due to its costly and time-consuming process that does not work for our Nation's small farming operations.

In light of these concerns with other avenues for reorganization under the

Bankruptcy Code, Congress created chapter 12 during the farm crisis of the mid-1980s in response to a series of economic catastrophes facing small farms, from grain embargoes, to high interest rates, to consolidation, and megafarms.

Unfortunately, many similar economic pressures are impacting family farmers today, who are also facing the devastating effects of climate change, including unprecedented weather events and catastrophic flooding, as well as stagnant or falling returns on investment.

H.R. 2336 takes into consideration the fact that modern farming operations entail greater costs and resulting debt than when chapter 12 was first enacted by raising the debt threshold to qualify for this type of bankruptcy relief to a level more consistent with today's operations.

Accordingly, I support H.R. 2336, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill.

The Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019 brings urgently needed help to a critical link in America's economy and a vital part of American community life, the family farmer.

In 2005, Congress permanently enacted chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code. Chapter 12 is specially designed to help family farmers reorganize their debts in time of need and keep their farms going. In the years since, chapter 12 and its streamlined procedures have worked well.

There has, however, been one problem. As time has passed, the cost of running a family farm have rapidly increased; the ceiling on chapter 12, on how much debt a family farm can reorganize, has lagged behind. Especially with the advent of modern, high-tech farming equipment, the chapter 12 ceiling is no longer high enough to let many farms with typical amounts of debt go into chapter 12.

The Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019 fixes this problem. It raises the ceiling from the old, roughly \$4.5 million limit to a more reasonable \$10 million limit. This means that more family farmers will be able to successfully reorganize when they need to, to the benefit of the economy and local communities across the land.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO), the author of the bill, a relentless advocate for this legislation, and a distinguished member of the freshman class.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Chairman CICILLINE for those kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, the Family Farmer Relief Act.

I rise to urge bipartisan support for a bipartisan priority, relief for family farmers. Passing H.R. 2336 will make our Nation's bankruptcy laws for farmers reflective of today's economy and better represent the experiences of our Nation's farmers.

I am proud to represent New York's 19th Congressional District, which stretches nearly 8,000 square miles, is made up of 11 counties, and includes the beautiful Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains.

New York 19 is the eighth most rural district in the country, and the third most rural represented by a Democrat. It is also home to nearly 5,000 farms and over 8,000 farm operators.

The last USDA Ag Census found that 96 percent of the farms in my district are family owned. These family-owned farms, both in New York 19, and across the country, are facing alarming rates of foreclosure during this down farm economy.

This is the fifth year on record of declining net farm income. Prices are low, inputs are high, and current trade policies make the future for farms unknown. 2018 marked the fourth consecutive year of rising bankruptcy rates as a proportion of the farm population.

This farm economy is exacerbated by an outdated bankruptcy filing cap that leaves farmers without options to restructure or repay their debt. Chapter 12 was created specifically to provide repayment flexibility and reorganizational advantages for family farms during poor economic times.

Unfortunately, this outdated debt cap has rendered chapter 12 an inaccessible tool for thousands of farm families.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers tell the story here. According to the National Farm Bureau, last year just 498 farms filed for chapter 12 bankruptcy. By comparison, 766,000 consumers filed under chapters 7 and 13.

Over the last 10 years, chapter 7 and chapter 13 have seen 10 million total filings, compared to just 5,000 Chapter 12 filings.

Mr. Speaker, we must do more. The Family Farmer Relief Act solution is simple. My one-sentence bill would adjust the debt cap to align with today's land values and the cost of doing business for today's farmers. Our legislation modifies chapter 12 bankruptcy rules to raise the debt cap for eligibility to \$10 million.

This adjustment will provide farmers additional options to manage the current farm economy and allows farmers to retain assets and remain operational. Allowing farmers increased flexibility is critical to the health and wellness of our family farmers and the Upstate economy at large.

I thank House leadership for bringing this important bill to the floor, and also Subcommittee Chairman CICILLINE for his support and leadership on the Judiciary Committee.

In addition, I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY for his ongoing leadership on this issue in the Senate.

And lastly, I want to thank my bipartisan House colead, Judiciary Subcommittee Ranking Member JIM SENSENBRENNER, House Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON, and Representatives TJ COX, KELLY ARMSTRONG, and DUSTY JOHNSON.

I look forward to seeing this bill move forward so we can give our farmers and growers the support and flexibility they need in these hard times.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2336 is a commonsense, bipartisan solution. I applaud the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) for his leadership on this bill to help our Nation's family-owned farms.

This legislation is supported by the nonpartisan American Bankruptcy Institute, as well the American College of Bankruptcy. It currently has more than 27 bipartisan cosponsors, including our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass H.R. 2336.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2336, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3877) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 284, nays 149, not voting 0, as follows:

[Roll No. 511]

YEAS—284

Adams	Blunt	Rochester	Cartwright
Aderholt	Bonamici		Case
Aguilar	Bost		Casten (IL)
Allred	Boyle, Brendan		Castor (FL)
Axne	F.		Castro (TX)
Babin	Brady		Cheney
Bacon	Brooks (IN)		Chu, Judy
Barragán	Brown (MD)		Cicilline
Bass	Brownley (CA)		Cisneros
Beatty	Bustos		Clark (MA)
Bera	Butterfield		Clarke (NY)
Bergman	Calvert		Clay
Beyer	Carbajal		Cleaver
Bilirakis	Cárdenas		Clyburn
Bishop (GA)	Carson (IN)		Cohen
Bishop (UT)	Carter (TX)		Cole

Collins (GA)	Joyce (OH)	Raskin
Collins (NY)	Kaptur	Reschenthaler
Conaway	Katko	Richmond
Connolly	Keating	Roby
Cook	Kelly (IL)	Rogers (AL)
Correa	Kennedy	Rogers (KY)
Costa	Khanna	Rose (NY)
Courtney	Kildee	Rouda
Cox (CA)	Kilmer	Roybal-Allard
Craig	Kim	Ruiz
Crist	King (NY)	Ruppersberger
Crow	Kinzinger	Rush
Cuellar	Kirkpatrick	Rutherford
Cummings	Krishnamoorthi	Ryan
Davids (KS)	Kuster (NH)	Sánchez
Davis (CA)	Kustoff (TN)	Sarbanes
Davis, Danny K.	Lamb	Scalise
Davis, Rodney	Langevin	Scanlon
Dean	Larsen (WA)	Schakowsky
DeFazio	Larson (CT)	Schiff
DeGette	Lawrence	Schneider
DeLauro	Lawson (FL)	Schrier
DelBene	Lee (CA)	Scott (VA)
Delgado	Lee (NV)	Scott, David
Demings	Levin (CA)	Serrano
DeSaulnier	Levin (MD)	Sewell (AL)
Deutch	Lewis	Shalala
Diaz-Balart	Lieu, Ted	Sherman
Dingell	Loeb	Sherrill
Doggett	Loeb	Simpson
Doyle, Michael	Lowenthal	Sires
F.	Lowey	Slotkin
Dunn	Lucas	Smith (NJ)
Engel	Luetkemeyer	Smith (WA)
Escobar	Lujan	Soto
Eshoo	Luria	Speier
Espallat	Lynch	Stanton
Evans	Malinowski	Staub
Ferguson	Maloney,	Stefanik
Finkenauer	Carolyn B.	Stevens
Fitzpatrick	Maloney, Sean	Stewart
Fleischmann	Matsui	Suozzi
Fletcher	McBath	Swalwell (CA)
Fortenberry	McCarthy	Takano
Foster	McCaul	Thompson (CA)
Frankel	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Fudge	McEachin	Thompson (PA)
Gabbard	McGovern	Thornberry
Gallego	McHenry	Titus
Garamendi	McNerney	Tlaib
Garcia (IL)	Meeks	Tonko
Garcia (TX)	Meng	Torres (CA)
Golden	Meuser	Torres Small
Gomez	Miller	(NM)
Gonzalez (TX)	Moore	Trahan
Gottheimer	Morelle	Trone
Granger	Moulton	Turner
Green, Al (TX)	Mucarsel-Powell	Underwood
Grijalva	Nadler	Upton
Guthrie	Napolitano	Van Drew
Haaland	Neal	Vargas
Hartzler	Neguse	Veasey
Hastings	Norcross	Vela
Hayes	Nunes	Velázquez
Heck	O'Halleran	Vislosky
Higgins (NY)	Ocasio-Cortez	Walden
Hill (AR)	Palazzo	Wasserman
Hill (CA)	Pallone	Schultz
Himes	Panetta	Waters
Horn, Kendra S.	Pappas	Watson Coleman
Horsford	Pascrell	Welch
Houlahan	Payne	Wexton
Hoyer	Pelosi	Wild
Huffman	Pence	Wilson (FL)
Hurd (TX)	Perlmutter	Wilson (SC)
Jackson Lee	Phillips	Womack
Jayapal	Pingree	Woodall
Jeffries	Pocan	Yarmuth
Johnson (GA)	Porter	Young
Johnson (OH)	Price (NC)	
Johnson (TX)	Quigley	

NAYS—149

Abraham	Bucshon	DesJarlais
Allen	Budd	Duffy
Amash	Burchett	Duncan
Amodei	Burgess	Emmer
Armstrong	Byrne	Estes
Arrington	Carter (GA)	Flores
Baird	Chabot	Foxx (NC)
Balderson	Cline	Fulcher
Banks	Cloud	Gaetz
Barr	Comer	Gallagher
Biggs	Cooper	Gianforte
Blumenauer	Crawford	Gibbs
Brindisi	Crenshaw	Gohmert
Brooks (AL)	Cunningham	Gonzalez (OH)
Buchanan	Curtis	Gooden
Buck	Davidson (OH)	Gosar

Graves (GA)	Long	Rouzer	Murphy	Posey	Webster (FL)	Rice (SC)	Shimkus	Trahan
Graves (LA)	Loudermilk	Roy	Norman	Rouzer	Wright	Richmond	Simpson	Trone
Graves (MO)	Marchant	Schrader	Perry	Roy	Yoho	Riggleman	Sires	Turner
Green (TN)	Marshall	Schweikert	Phillips	Weber (TX)		Roby	Slotkin	Underwood
Griffith	Massie	Scott, Austin				Rodgers (WA)	Smith (MO)	Upton
Grothman	Mast	Sensenbrenner				Roe, David P.	Smith (NE)	Van Drew
Guest	McAdams	Shimkus	Abraham	Deutch	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)	Smith (NJ)	Vargas
Hagedorn	McClintock	Smith (MO)	Adams	Diaz-Balart	Kinzinger	Rogers (KY)	Smith (WA)	Veasey
Harder (CA)	McKinley	Smith (NE)	Aderholt	Dingell	Kirkpatrick	Rooney (FL)	Smucker	Vela
Harris	Meadows	Smucker	Agullar	Doggett	Krishnamoorthi	Rose (NY)	Soto	Velázquez
Hern, Kevin	Mitchell	Spanberger	Allen	Doyle, Michael	Kuster (NH)	Rose, John W.	Spanberger	Vislosky
Herrera Beutler	Moolenaar	Spano	Allred	F.	Kustoff (TN)	Rouda	Spano	Wagner
Hice (GA)	Mooney (WV)	Steil	Amodei	Duffy	LaHood	Roybal-Allard	Speier	Walberg
Higgins (LA)	Mullin	Steube	Armstrong	Duncan	Lamb	Ruiz	Stanton	Walden
Holding	Murphy	Stivers	Arrington	Dunn	Lamborn	Ruppersberger	Staubert	Walker
Hollingsworth	Newhouse	Taylor	Axne	Emmer	Langevin	Rush	Stefanik	Walorski
Hudson	Norman	Timmons	Babin	Engel	Larsen (WA)	Rutherford	Steuert	Waltz
Huizenga	Olson	Tipton	Bacon	Escobar	Larson (CT)	Ryan	Stevens	Wasserman
Hunter	Omar	Wagner	Baird	Eshoo	Latta	Sánchez	Stewart	Schultz
Johnson (LA)	Palmer	Walberg	Balderson	Espallat	Lawrence	Sarbanes	Stewert	Waters
Johnson (SD)	Perry	Walker	Banks	Estes	Lawson (FL)	Scalise	Stivers	Watkins
Jordan	Peters	Walorski	Barr	Evans	Lee (CA)	Scanlon	Suozi	Watson Coleman
Joyce (PA)	Peterson	Waltz	Barragán	Ferguson	Lee (NV)	Schakowsky	Swalwell (CA)	Welch
Keller	Pressley	Watkins	Bass	Finkenauer	Levin (CA)	Schiff	Takano	Wenstrup
Kelly (MS)	Ratcliffe	Weber (TX)	Beatty	Fitzpatrick	Levin (MI)	Schneider	Taylor	Westerman
Kelly (PA)	Reed	Webster (FL)	Bera	Fleischmann	Lewis	Schrader	Thompson (CA)	Wexton
Kind	Rice (NY)	Westerman	Bergman	Fletcher	Lieu, Ted	Schrier	Thompson (MS)	Wild
King (IA)	Rice (SC)	Westerman	Beyer	Flores	Lipinski	Schweikert	Thompson (PA)	Williams
LaHood	Riggleman	Williams	Bilirakis	Portenberry	Loeback	Scott (VA)	Thornberry	Wilson (FL)
LaMalfa	Rodgers (WA)	Wittman	Bishop (GA)	Foster	Lofgren	Scott, Austin	Timmons	Wilson (SC)
Lamborn	Roe, David P.	Wright	Bishop (UT)	Foxx (NC)	Long	Scott, David	Tipton	Wittman
Latta	Rooney (FL)	Yoho	Blumenauer	Frankel	Lowdermilk	Sensenbrenner	Titus	Womack
Lesko	Rose, John W.	Zeldin	Blunt Rochester	Fudge	Lowenthal	Serrano	Tlaib	Woodall
Lipinski			Bonamici	Gabbard	Lowey	Sewell (AL)	Tonko	Yarmuth
			Bost	Gallego	Lucas	Shalala	Torres (CA)	Young
			Boyle, Brendan	Garamendi	Luetkemeyer	Sherman	Torres Small	Zeldin
			F.	Garcia (IL)	Luján	Sherrill	(NM)	
			Brady	Garcia (TX)	Luria			
			Brooks (IN)	Gianforte	Lynch			
			Brown (MD)	Gibbs	Malinowski			
			Brownley (CA)	Golden	Maloney,			
			Buchanan	Gomez	Carolyn B.			
			Bucshon	Gonzalez (OH)	Maloney, Sean			
			Bustos	Gonzalez (TX)	Marchant			
			Butterfield	Gooden	Marshall			
			Byrne	Gottheimer	Mast			
			Calvert	Granger	Matsui			
			Carbajal	Graves (GA)	McBath			
			Carson (IN)	Graves (LA)	McCarthy			
			Carter (GA)	Graves (MO)	McCaul			
			Carter (TX)	Green, Al (TX)	McCollum			
			Cartwright	Grijalva	McEeachin			
			Case	Guthrie	McGovern			
			Casten (IL)	Haaland	McHenry			
			Castor (FL)	Hagedorn	McNerney			
			Castro (TX)	Harder (CA)	Meeks			
			Chabot	Hartzler	Meng			
			Cheney	Hastings	Meuser			
			Chu, Judy	Hayes	Miller			
			Cicilline	Heck	Mitchell			
			Cisneros	Hern, Kevin	Moolenaar			
			Clark (MA)	Herrera Beutler	Moore			
			Clarke (NY)	Clay	Morelle			
			Cleaver	Cleaver	Moulton			
			Cline	Cline	Mucarsel-Powell			
			Clyburn	Cohen	Mullin			
			Cohen	Cole	Nadler			
			Cole	Collins (GA)	Napolitano			
			Collins (NY)	Collins (NY)	Neal			
			Conaway	Conaway	Neguse			
			Connolly	Cook	Newhouse			
			Correa	Correa	Norcross			
			Costa	Costa	Nunes			
			Courtney	Courtney	O'Halleran			
			Cox (CA)	Cox (CA)	Ocasio-Cortez			
			Craig	Craig	Olson			
			Crawford	Crawford	Omar			
			Crenshaw	Crenshaw	Palazzo			
			Crist	Crist	Pallone			
			Crow	Crow	Palmer			
			Cuellar	Cuellar	Panetta			
			Cummings	Cummings	Pappas			
			Cunningham	Cunningham	Pascrell			
			Curtis	Curtis	Payne			
			Davids (KS)	Davids (KS)	Pence			
			Davis (CA)	Davis (CA)	Perlmutter			
			Davis, Danny K.	Davis, Danny K.	Peters			
			Davis, Rodney	Davis, Rodney	Peterson			
			Dean	Dean	Pingree			
			DeFazio	DeFazio	Pocan			
			DeGette	DeGette	Porter			
			DeLauro	DeLauro	Kelly (IL)			
			DeBene	DeBene	Kelly (MS)			
			Delgado	Delgado	Kelly (PA)			
			Demings	Demings	Kennedy			
			DeSaulnier	DeSaulnier	Khanna			
					Kildee			
					Kilmer			
					Kim			
					Kind			

NAYS—384

□ 1710

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

Messrs. FERGUSON and BILIRAKIS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk to change the title of the bill to: "A bill to kick the can down the road, and for other purposes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to kick the can down the road, and for other purposes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 6 of rule XVI, the amendment is not debatable.

The question is on the amendment.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 47, nays 384, not voting 1, as follows:

[Roll No. 512]

YEAS—47

Amash	DesJarlais	Huizenga
Biggs	Fulcher	Hunter
Brindisi	Gaetz	Jordan
Brooks (AL)	Gallagher	King (IA)
Buck	Gohmert	LaMalfa
Budd	Gosar	Lesko
Burchett	Green (TN)	Massie
Burgess	Griffith	McAdams
Cloud	Harris	McClintock
Comer	Hice (GA)	McKinley
Cooper	Hollingsworth	Meadows
Davidson (OH)	Hudson	Mooney (WV)

NOT VOTING—1

Cárdenas

□ 1726

Messrs. CLINE, MARCHANT, and GRAVES of Missouri changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

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

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 549) to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

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

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. I am in its present form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Rescenthaler moves to recommit the bill H.R. 549 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 1, line 11, before the comma, insert the following: "because of the economic, humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis that is a direct result of years of socialist policies

implemented by the regimes of Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, the motion to recommit I am offering today is a very simple one. The motion to recommit inserts language into this bill that blames Venezuela’s economic, humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis squarely where it belongs, on socialism.

This crisis is a direct result of years of socialist policies implemented by the authoritative regimes of Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro. Venezuela should be the wealthiest country in South America. Indeed, it once was. However, like all socialist regimes, Chavez and Maduro ripped power from the hands of their people, depriving Venezuelans of their personal liberties and relegating them to poverty, death, and despair.

In socialist countries, the government no longer serves the people; the people serve the government.

Venezuela is currently experiencing, according to The New York Times, the worst economic collapse outside of war in the last half-century. The country’s economy has shrunk twice as much as the Soviet bloc’s economy did during their collapse.

Venezuelans continue to suffer from shortages of food, medicine, and simple commodities. Inflation is set to reach 10 million percent this year.

Ten million percent inflation? Mr. Speaker, that is unthinkable.

Venezuela’s economy is so bad and its inflation is so out of control that, according to Bloomberg, a haircut costs five bananas and two eggs. It is absolutely ridiculous. This is what it has come to in Venezuela.

One-tenth of the population has fled the country due to economic collapse and government repression.

As Margaret Thatcher once said, the problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people’s money.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I was fortunate enough to get to the border of Colombia and Venezuela. In fact, I was with a bipartisan, bicameral delegation to the border. I talked to refugees about the conditions from which they fled.

I heard stories of physicians who were performing surgeries with smartphone lights because the lights in the operating room went off and on.

I heard stories from family members who said that their other family members were dying because they couldn’t get penicillin for simple wounds and infections.

I saw a woman crossing a river in a wheelchair because she was desperately seeking medical attention. It was truly heartbreaking.

To this day, over 3 million Venezuelans have fled for Colombia while the ruthless Maduro regime blocks humanitarian aid into Venezuela.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, sadly, Members of this very body continue to stand with Maduro. Mr. Speaker, while Members of this very body stand with Maduro, they simultaneously refuse to recognize Guaido as the legitimate President of Venezuela. They continue to blame the United States for Venezuela’s collapse. They align themselves with the disastrous, inhumane policies of socialism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to call the crisis in Venezuela for what it is: the result of unfettered socialism. I ask that they support this motion to recommit, which won’t kill the bill and which won’t delay its adoption.

We must send a strong message; we must send a united message; and we must send a message to the world that the United States is a beacon of freedom and hope, that the United States will always fight oppression, and that the United States will always empower the people.

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

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to this motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, this is an outrageous and truly insulting amendment meant to do nothing more than to score cheap political points.

Let’s be clear, Republicans are offering this amendment to take a stand against a socialist dictator, but they plan to vote against this bill, a bill that does nothing more than protect people from that very dictator. In other words, Republicans want to say that they support the Venezuelan people, but they are completely unwilling to do anything for them.

I have just one thing to say to my Republican colleagues: Venezuelans don’t need your empty words. They need action now.

Let’s be clear: Every American opposes dictatorial oppression, whether it comes from the far left or from the far right. In South America, we have seen dictators from the right and the left, like Augusto Pinochet in Chile or Jorge Rafael Videla in Argentina, both of whom killed and disappeared thousands of their own citizens in pursuit of rightwing agendas.

During those regimes, we condemned dictators. I hope you remember those times, Mr. Speaker. We did not use the tragedy of the people to score cheap political points.

We all oppose dictatorship and tyranny. It is what binds us together as Americans.

Coming from South America, I understand very well what happens when we see a dictator rise, when it goes unchecked. Instead of honoring democratic principles, this amendment uses it as a political weapon to divide our Nation.

That is bad enough, but it is worse when those who offer the amendment

are also unwilling to help oppressed people who find themselves in a similar situation to the countless immigrants who came to Plymouth Rock, Ellis Island, or the Freedom Tower.

Let me ask this: Do you think that oppressed Venezuelans, immigrants who desperately fled to the United States to seek refuge, prefer that we vote and waste our time on an empty condemnation or that we pass meaningful legislation to prevent the administration from deporting them back to a country suffering one of the worst humanitarian crises in this hemisphere?

Trump has said that he condemns Maduro and that he supports the Venezuelan people, but his words are as empty as this Republican motion before us.

Trump’s hypocritical immigration policies have left this House no other option but to act. We have the opportunity to set aside politics, like 37 of my Republican colleagues did on Tuesday, and do right by our Venezuelan brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this motion to recommit.

Let’s support our Venezuelan brothers and sisters. “Apoyemos a nuestros hermanos venezolanos.”

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. 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 is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 215, noes 217, not voting 0, as follows:

[Roll No. 513]

AYES—215

Abraham	Brooks (IN)	Crenshaw
Aderholt	Buchanan	Crow
Allen	Buck	Cunningham
Amash	Bucshon	Curtis
Amodei	Budd	Davidson (OH)
Armstrong	Burchett	Davis, Rodney
Arrington	Burgess	DesJarlais
Axne	Byrne	Diaz-Balart
Babin	Calvert	Duffy
Bacon	Carter (GA)	Duncan
Baird	Carter (TX)	Dunn
Balderson	Chabot	Emmer
Banks	Cheney	Estes
Barr	Cline	Ferguson
Bergman	Cloud	Finkenauer
Biggs	Cole	Fitzpatrick
Billirakis	Collins (GA)	Fleischmann
Bishop (UT)	Collins (NY)	Flores
Bost	Comer	Fortenberry
Brady	Conaway	Fox (NC)
Brindisi	Cook	Fulcher
Brooks (AL)	Crawford	Gaetz

Gallagher	Lamborn	Rutherford	Morelle	Rouda	Swalwell (CA)	Kildee	Napolitano	Shimkus
Gianforte	Latta	Scalise	Moulton	Roybal-Allard	Takano	Kilmer	Neal	Sires
Gibbs	Lesko	Schweikert	Mucarsel-Powell	Ruiz	Thompson (CA)	Kim	Neguse	Slotkin
Gohmert	Long	Scott, Austin	Nadler	Ruppersberger	Thompson (MS)	Kind	Norcross	Smith (NJ)
Golden	Loudermilk	Sensenbrenner	Napolitano	Rush	Titus	King (NY)	O'Halleran	Smith (WA)
Gonzalez (OH)	Lucas	Sherrill	Neal	Ryan	Tlaib	Kinzinger	Ocasio-Cortez	Soto
Gooden	Luetkemeyer	Shimkus	Neguse	Sánchez	Tonko	Kirkpatrick	Omar	Spanberger
Gosar	Marchant	Simpson	Norcross	Sarbanes	Torres (CA)	Krishnamoorthi	Pallone	Spano
Gotthelmer	Marshall	Slotkin	O'Halleran	Scanlon	Torres Small	Kuster (NH)	Panetta	Speier
Granger	Massie	Smith (MO)	Ocasio-Cortez	Schakowsky	(NM)	Lamb	Pappas	Stanton
Graves (GA)	Mast	Smith (NE)	Omar	Schiff	Trahan	Langevin	Pascrell	Stanton
Graves (LA)	McCarthy	Smith (NJ)	Pallone	Schneider	Trone	Larsen (WA)	Payne	Stefanik
Graves (MO)	McCaul	Smucker	Panetta	Schrader	Underwood	Larson (CT)	Perlmutter	Steil
Green (TN)	McClintock	Spanberger	Pappas	Schrier	Vargas	Lawrence	Peters	Stevens
Griffith	McHenry	Staubert	Pascrell	Scott (VA)	Veasey	Lawson (FL)	Peterson	Stivers
Grothman	McKinley	Stauber	Payne	Scott, David	Vela	Lee (CA)	Phillips	Suozzi
Guest	Meadows	Stefanik	Perlmutter	Serrano	Velázquez	Lee (NV)	Pingree	Swalwell (CA)
Guthrie	Meuser	Steil	Peters	Sewell (AL)	Visclosky	Levin (CA)	Pocan	Takano
Hagedorn	Miller	Steube	Phillips	Shalala	Wasserman	Levin (MI)	Porter	Thompson (CA)
Harris	Mitchell	Stewart	Pingree	Sherman	Schultz	Lewis	Pressley	Thompson (MS)
Hartzler	Moolenaar	Stivers	Pocan	Sires	Waters	Lieu, Ted	Price (NC)	Thompson (PA)
Hern, Kevin	Mooney (WV)	Taylor	Pressley	Smith (WA)	Watson Coleman	Lipinski	Quigley	Titus
Herrera Beutler	Mullin	Thompson (PA)	Price (NC)	Soto	Welch	Loeb sack	Raskin	Tlaib
Hice (GA)	Murphy	Thornberry	Waltz	Speier	Wexton	Reed	Reed	Tonko
Higgins (LA)	Newhouse	Timmons	Watkins	Stanton	Wild	Lowenthal	Rice (NY)	Torres (CA)
Hill (AR)	Norman	Tipton	Weber (TX)	Raskin	Rice (NY)	Lowe y	Richmond	Torres Small
Holding	Nunes	Turner	Webster (FL)	Rice (NY)	Richmond	Luján	Rodgers (WA)	(NM)
Hollingsworth	Olson	Upton	Wenstrup	Richmond	Suozzi	Luria	Rooney (FL)	Trahan
Horn, Kendra S.	Palazzo	Van Drew	Westerman			Lynch	Rose (NY)	Trone
Hudson	Palmer	Wagner	Williams			Malinowski	Rouda	Underwood
Huizenga	Pence	Walberg	Wilson (SC)			Maloney,	Roybal-Allard	Van Drew
Hunter	Perry	Walden	Wittman			Carolyn B.	Ruiz	Vargas
Hurd (TX)	Peterson	Walker	Womack			Maloney, Sean	Ruppersberger	Veasey
Johnson (LA)	Porter	Walorski	Woodall			Mast	Rush	Vela
Johnson (OH)	Posey	Waltz	Wright			Matsui	Sánchez	Velázquez
Johnson (SD)	Ratcliffe	Watkins	Yoho			McAdams	Sarbanes	Visclosky
Jordan	Reed	Webster (FL)	Zeldin			McBath	Scanlon	Waltz
Joyce (OH)	Reschenthaler	Wenstrup				McCaul	Schakowsky	Wasserman
Joyce (PA)	Rice (SC)	Westerman				McCollum	Schiff	Schultz
Katko	Riggleman	Williams				McEachin	Schneider	Watson Coleman
Keller	Roby	Wilson (SC)				McGovern	Schrader	Welch
Kelly (MS)	Rodgers (WA)	Wittman				McNerney	Schrier	Wexton
Kelly (PA)	Roe, David P.	Womack				Meeks	Scott (VA)	Wild
Kim	Rogers (AL)	Woodall				Meng	Scott, Austin	Wilson (FL)
King (IA)	Rogers (KY)	Wright				Moore	Scott, David	Womack
King (NY)	Rooney (FL)	Yoho				Morelle	Serrano	Woodall
Kinzinger	Rose (NY)	Young				Moulton	Sewell (AL)	Woodall
Kustoff (TN)	Rose, John W.	Zeldin				Mucarsel-Powell	Shalala	Yarmuth
LaHood	Rouzer					Murphy	Sherman	Yoho
LaMalfa	Roy					Nadler	Sherrill	Young

□ 1744

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 272, noes 158, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 514]

AYES—272

Adams	Davis, Danny K.	Johnson (GA)	Abraham	Flores	Massie
Aguilar	Dean	Johnson (TX)	Aderholt	Foxx (NC)	McCarthy
Allred	DeFazio	Kaptur	Allen	Fulcher	McClintock
Barragán	DeGette	Keating	Amodei	Gaetz	McHenry
Bass	DeLauro	Kelly (IL)	Armstrong	Gianforte	McKinley
Beatty	DelBene	Kennedy	Arrington	Gibbs	Meadows
Bera	Delgado	Khanna	Babin	Gohmert	Meuser
Beyer	Demings	Kildee	Baird	Gooden	Miller
Bishop (GA)	DeSaulnier	Kilmer	Balderson	Gosar	Mitchell
Blumenauer	Deutch	Kind	Banks	Granger	Moolenaar
Blunt Rochester	Dingell	Kirkpatrick	Barr	Graves (LA)	Mooney (WV)
Bonamici	Doggett	Krishnamoorthi	Bergman	Graves (MO)	Mullin
Boyle, Brendan F.	Doyle, Michael F.	Kuster (NH)	Biggs	Green (TN)	Newhouse
Brown (MD)	Engel	Lamb	Bilirakis	Griffith	Norman
Brownley (CA)	Escobar	Langevin	Bishop (UT)	Grothman	Nunes
Bustos	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)	Brady	Guest	Olson
Butterfield	Eshoo	Larson (CT)	Brooks (AL)	Guthrie	Palazzo
Carbajal	Españillat	Lawrence	Brooks (IN)	Hagedorn	Palmer
Cárdenas	Evans	Lawson (FL)	Buchanan	Harris	Pence
Carson (IN)	Fletcher	Lee (CA)	Buck	Hern, Kevin	Perry
Cartwright	Foster	Lee (NV)	Bucshon	Hice (GA)	Posey
Case	Frankel	Levin (CA)	Budd	Holding	Ratcliffe
Casten (IL)	Fudge	Levin (MI)	Burchett	Hollingsworth	Reschenthaler
Castor (FL)	Gabbard	Lewis	Burgess	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Castro (TX)	Gallego	Lieu, Ted	Byrne	Huizenga	Riggleman
Chu, Judy	Garamendi	Lipinski	Calvert	Hunter	Roby
Ciilline	Garcia (IL)	Loeb sack	Carter (GA)	Johnson (LA)	Roe, David P.
Cisneros	Garcia (TX)	Lofgren	Carter (TX)	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Clark (MA)	Gomez	Lowenthal	Chabot	Johnson (SD)	Rogers (KY)
Clarke (NY)	Gonzalez (TX)	Lowe y	Cheney	Jordan	Rose, John W.
Clay	Green, Al (TX)	Luján	Cline	Joyce (PA)	Rouzer
Cleaver	Grijalva	Luria	Cloud	Keller	Roy
Clyburn	Haaland	Lynch	Collins (GA)	Kelly (MS)	Rutherford
Cohen	Harder (CA)	Malinowski	Collins (NY)	Kelly (PA)	Scalise
Connolly	Hastings	Maloney,	Comer	King (IA)	Schweikert
Cooper	Hayes	Carolyn B.	Conaway	Kustoff (TN)	Sensenbrenner
Correa	Heck	Maloney, Sean	Cook	LaHood	Simpson
Costa	Higgins (NY)	Matsui	Crawford	LaMalfa	Smith (MO)
Courtney	Hill (CA)	McAdams	Davidson (OH)	Lamborn	Smith (NE)
Cox (CA)	Himes	McBath	Davis, Rodney	Latta	Smucker
Craig	Horsford	McCollum	DesJarlais	Lesko	Stauber
Crist	Houlihan	McEachin	Duncan	Long	Steube
Cuellar	Hoyer	McGovern	Dunn	Loudermilk	Stewart
Cummings	Huffman	McNerney	Emmer	Lucas	Taylor
Davids (KS)	Jackson Lee	Meeks	Estes	Luetkemeyer	Thornberry
Davis (CA)	Jayapal	Meng	Ferguson	Marchant	Timmons
	Jeffries	Moore	Fleischmann	Marshall	Tipton

Turner	Walorski	Williams
Upton	Watkins	Wilson (SC)
Wagner	Weber (TX)	Wittman
Walberg	Webster (FL)	Wright
Walden	Wenstrup	Zeldin
Walker	Westerman	

NOT VOTING—2

Ryan Waters

□ 1759

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3253. An act to provide for certain extensions with respect to the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1569. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to add Flagstaff and Yuma to the list of locations in which court shall be held in the judicial district for the State of Arizona.

H.R. 2196. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

AUTHORITY FOR CONTINUATION OF SERVICE OF THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 2249) to allow the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration on the date of enactment of this Act to continue to serve as such Deputy Administrator, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2249

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR CONTINUATION OF SERVICE OF THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual serving as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration on the date of enactment of this Act may continue to serve as such Deputy Administrator, without regard to the restrictions specified in the 5th sentence of section 106(d)(1) of title 49, United States Code.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as approval by Congress of any future appointments of military persons to the Offices of Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMITTING OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BE TAKEN WHILE THE HOUSE IS IN ACTUAL SESSION ON A DATE DESIGNATED BY THE SPEAKER

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 420, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 420

Resolved, That on such date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives may designate, official photographs of the House may be taken while the House is in actual session. Payment for the costs associated with taking, preparing, and distributing such photographs may be made from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR AN EVENT TO COMMEMORATE THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST AFRICAN SLAVES TO THE TERRITORY THAT WOULD BECOME THE UNITED STATES

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 53, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 53

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT COMMEMORATING 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARRIVAL OF FIRST AFRICAN SLAVES.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on September 9, 2019, for an event to commemorate the

400th anniversary of the arrival of the first African slaves to the territory that would become the United States. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. 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. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and majority leader to immediately schedule the Born-Alive bill so we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life.

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

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. 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. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge the Speaker to immediately schedule this important bill.

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

PARTICIPANTS IN CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH CABINET IN PENNSYLVANIA'S FIFTH DISTRICT

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, my office launched a Congressional Youth Cabinet, a yearlong opportunity for students in Pennsylvania's Fifth District to share their ideas

on how to solve the most pressing issues facing young Americans while learning more about the policymaking process and how Congress works.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the students who applied and will be participating in our PA-5 Youth Cabinet this year.

Those students are: Augustin Aliaga, Maayan Barsade, Jade Bennett, Lucas Bennett, Lauren Block, Harry Cotter, Kieran DiasLalcaca, Annelise DiClemente, Jack DiPrimo, Gabriel Donahue, Ethan Donnelly, Christian Dormer, Grace Dougherty, Atreya Ghosh, Gwen Greene, Wali Hamid, Jahmiel Jackson, Channing Jackson, Paige Kieft, Kathleen Lac, Katherine Lanzalotto, Ryan Lynch, Luke Mandel, Aidan McGahey, Mya McKeown, Grace McNelis, Brenna Montgomery, Johanna Murphy, June Park, Mira Patel, Gwendolyn Pfister, Richard Quiah, Fiona Rae, Sarah Rossi, Joseph Shapiro, and Vince Vento.

I look forward to working with and learning from these incredible young people.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL AUTOMAKERS

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the positive impact that international automakers' investments have made in the United States and, specifically, in my home State of Indiana.

Today, international automakers operate 30 manufacturing facilities across 12 States, including 3 in Indiana, and build more than 60 different vehicle models across the country.

Eleven models are produced in my home State, including the Subaru Ascent, Impreza, Legacy, and Outback, which are all built in Lafayette, in our Fourth Congressional District.

In addition to Subaru, Indiana is also home to Honda Manufacturing of Indiana and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana.

Overall, international automakers in Indiana have directly employed more than 13,000 Hoosiers and helped support more than 126,000 local jobs via direct and indirect employment, produced over 1 million vehicles in 2018, and invested \$7.5 billion in our State's economy.

For 50 years and counting, international automakers have thrived in this country, thanks to an economy that welcomes investment, competition, and innovation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important role of international automakers in the United States.

REJECT ATTACKS ON SNAP

(Ms. WILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, 2 days ago, I received an email from a constituent, a professor at a community college in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Many of her students depend on SNAP benefits, and she reached out to me, deeply worried after hearing reports of the administration's plans to further undermine SNAP through extreme new executive actions.

These changes would cut assistance to over 3 million people across our country, including children, veterans, disabled Americans, and seniors.

I wish I could send her a reassuring response. It is truly a shameful time in America when we give tax cuts to billionaires and huge corporations, but we can't help folks falling on hard times put food on their tables.

Around 44 percent of SNAP beneficiaries, nationally, are children, and research shows that SNAP not only reduces hunger and malnutrition, but also improves American people's lives in a whole range of other ways, including improving children's education outcomes.

We cannot turn our backs on those we were sent here to serve. Let's stand together, Democrats and Republicans, alike, just as when we worked together to protect SNAP benefits in the farm bill, and reject these deeply immoral attacks on our most vulnerable fellow citizens.

HONORING CENTRE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR JOHN ASTON AND JEFFREY EBECK

(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 applaud the bravery, dedication, and sacrifice of two of Centre County's finest law enforcement officers.

Each year, the Centre County District Attorney's Office accepts nominations from the public, law enforcement agencies, and government agencies for the Centre County Law Enforcement Officers of the Year award.

Earlier this month, State College Police Officer John Aston and Pennsylvania State Trooper Jeffrey Ebeck were recognized as this year's recipients.

Aston has been a part of the borough police department for nearly 25 years and was promoted to detective in 2003. His experience in cellphone, computer, and internet forensics has been critical in a variety of high-profile cases in Centre County.

Ebeck became a state trooper in 2002 and has been described as a man of strong character and integrity.

First responders like Aston and Ebeck certainly deserve to be recognized for their work. But the men and women who choose these careers don't

do so for the accolades. They do so because of their commitment to service and to safety.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VENEZUELA TPS ACT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019.

This particular bill designates Venezuela for temporary protected status for an initial 18-month period beginning on the date of enactment, and such designation would allow eligible nationals of Venezuela who are in the United States on the date of enactment to register for TPS benefits, including temporary immigration status and employment authorization.

Let me indicate that, in my community in Houston, there are a number of Venezuelans who have told their story of fleeing and leaving behind family members. Many of them, however, have had the opportunity to be in this country to be safe but still to be concerned about family members.

We know that there are difficult times in Venezuela. It is important for the United States to engage diplomatically to try and resolve this.

We know there are medical crises, health crises, crises of family separation, and violence.

So, I would make the point that this is an important initiative, and I would also say that I would like to thank one of the constituents in my community, CITGO, a company that has many Venezuelans working there but has been a generous supporter of Houston.

I believe that it is important to try and resolve these issues to bring peace to Venezuela. TPS is appropriate, and we should do it now.

□ 1815

BDS MOVEMENT INCONSISTENT WITH AMERICAN VALUES

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the United States has long stood guard against ideologies that would undermine the principles of our democracy. Historically, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, or BDS, movement has been regarded as inconsistent with American values and in opposition to alliance with Israel.

Unfortunately, support for the BDS movement has been voiced in the House of Representatives. Supporting this measure shows disregard for the longstanding bond that the United States has developed with Israel as a trustworthy ally in the Middle East.

The United States has never turned a blind eye to our allies, and every Member of this legislative body should take steps to ensure that we do not betray

the enduring trust we have developed with our friend, the nation of Israel, and its people.

We, as the House of Representatives, should bring up H.R. 336, the comprehensive legislation addressing the anti-BDS issue. I encourage my colleagues to support additional measures to protect against the BDS movement and uphold our friendship with the great nation of Israel.

CELEBRATING THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, tomorrow we celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a groundbreaking civil rights law that has improved the lives of millions across the Nation, including my own. However, the fight for equality and inclusion is not over.

Over the past year, I have collaborated with disability advocates and lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to pass bills that strengthen protections for airline passengers with disabilities, expand caregiver services for disabled veterans, and establish a more inclusive emergency preparedness and disaster planning process.

I have also called for the Federal Government to account for its hiring and retention of disabled workers, increased funding for spinal cord injury research, co-led legislation to help small businesses break down accessibility barriers and passed a bill in the House to authorize \$200 million for respite care services.

Madam Speaker, these efforts are only the beginning, and I cannot and will not stop fighting until we achieve the goal of equal opportunity, full inclusion, and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities everywhere.

WE MUST CONDEMN ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today because a resolution was introduced in this body last week supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, or BDS movement, against the State of Israel. Again, seemingly right after this body passed another resolution condemning anti-Semitism, this backwards ideology has reared its ugly head once again in the form of H. Res. 496.

I have come to the floor today to speak to the supporters of bills like these and the 22 Members who either voted "nay" or "present" on H. Res. 246 earlier this week, to remind them that Israel is the only stable democracy in an otherwise volatile region of the world.

It is a place where women serve in the military and hold high office. It is a place where all people are able to express their views without threat from the government. It is a place where Arab citizens are elected to the Knesset. Bottom line, Israel values human rights.

Madam Speaker, we must condemn anti-Semitism no matter where it comes from, and I am glad the House did that earlier this week.

CELEBRATING AUGUST 4 AS COAST GUARD DAY

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

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate August 4 as Coast Guard Day, marking the service's founding by Alexander Hamilton in 1790. We are very grateful for the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard who selflessly serve America, both at home and abroad.

My congressional district of Pinellas County, Florida, is proud to be home to numerous Coast Guard commands, both ashore and afloat. We have the largest and busiest air station in the country, Air Station Clearwater, and a robust maritime operation at Sector St. Petersburg.

Coast Guard families serve as well, providing the Coasties themselves with the support and resilience they depend on to stand watch, day in and day out.

So, Madam Speaker, I would like to wish a happy 229th birthday to the United States Coast Guard.

FIRE PREVENTION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, 1 year ago, on July 23, the Carr fire broke out in Shasta County, California, near Reading, sometimes referred to as a "firenado" that burned nearly 230,000 acres and destroyed 1,600 structures. Most tragically of all, it took eight lives.

It took over a month to fully extinguish what became one of the most destructive fires in California State history. For those impacted by it, it must have felt like the blink of an eye. Everything they owned went up in smoke.

Now, a year later, everyone is still working the recovery process as best as can be done. It is still not easy.

In the aftermath of this disaster, and even during it, our community showed just how strong and resilient our people are. Families, friends, and neighbors came together to help each other in any possible way, with water, food, clothes, everything they needed, and they have continued to do so for the whole year.

Some of the first homes are now being completed as people are moving forward, a good sign.

Preventing another fire like this is one of my top priorities. The Carr fire was started when a flat tire caused a wheel to scrape against the asphalt and create a spark in the nearby forested area; so I have introduced legislation called the CARR Act, Combustion Avoidance on Rural Roads Act, which helps avoid this sort of combustion on rural roads by allowing categorical exclusions to clear vegetation within 300 feet of a roadway.

We have got much to do, and for people who lost everything, this is prevention that will help keep it from happening again.

CONGRATULATING MIKE LANGFORD

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike Langford on his retirement.

Mike had served as the president of the Utility Workers Union of America since 2006 and has been a major leader of that union for many decades.

During his time at the UWUA, Mike has worked hard to bring about overdue reform that delivers safe, reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly utility services across this whole country.

I share his commitment to a cleaner environment and more affordable services for working families. And, as a former union organizer, I thank Mike for his outstanding dedication to American workers.

Indeed, I can personally attest to Mike's stalwart leadership of all American workers as a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council. And I also want to point out that America's veterans have had no better friend than Mike Langford, who helped set up programs to train hundreds and thousands of them for careers in the utility industry.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike on his retirement and on wishing him the very best for the next chapter of his life.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I would notice that there is a certain smell here of jet fumes; that this Chamber is completely empty, here, July 25, my colleagues—well, it is empty for the most part.

My colleagues are headed off to the airport to fly home; fly home for fundraisers, vacation.

But you know what they are not doing? Nobody in this body is going to stay here to secure the border of the

United States. While we have got thousands of people pouring across our border, while ICE does not have the resources it needs to do its job, this body is adjourning.

I had 40 of my colleagues, give or take—and it is a growing list—that have asked the Speaker that we should stay here. We should not adjourn. How can we possibly adjourn without giving ICE the resources it needs for the beds to be able to put people, to be able to deal with the border crisis? Yet, that is what this body is going to do.

It is unconscionable that we are allowing our border to stay open, and that this body is going to adjourn, go home and, for 6 weeks, not do our duty as a sovereign Nation to have a secure border, to make sure migrants can come here safely; but more importantly, that our law enforcement has the tools that it needs to do the job that we ask them to do when they are standing on the line every day defending this country.

With cartels having operational control of our border, endangering this country, it is our duty to do it. We should stay here.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JUDY SCHNEIDER

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my deep gratitude and appreciation to someone who has played an inspirational and indispensable role in Congress for more than 4 decades, my great friend, my guide, Judy Schneider.

After a legendary career as a Specialist on Congress at the Congressional Research Service—really, the specialist, ultimate specialist, on Congress—Judy is retiring; and I want to let her know how much she will be missed.

I was fortunate to meet Judy even before I was sworn into the Congress. And as soon as I met her, I realized that I need Judy Schneider to be my mentor, and I was fortunate that she agreed to do that.

Judy has won many well-deserved accolades; but I think that her greatest reward is knowing that she has mentored and trained and inspired so many that have gone on to use her lessons about how Congress works, how it really works, how it should work, and then how it really works. That has been the lesson that has improved people's lives and the Members of Congress' lives and well-being.

So, Judy, I thank you. I love you, and I wish you everything good.

CONGRATULATING EVAN DOLISZNY FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, Evan Doliszny of Ocean City, in South Jersey, recently received the Congressional Award Gold Medal, along with the STEM Star award for his work in mathematics.

Evan is one of only 538 students in the Nation and 20 in New Jersey to achieve this honor, which was established in 1979 to recognize and celebrate "Initiative, Achievement, Service" in our young people.

Evan is truly living out those ideals. He participated in over 611 hours of volunteer service for his community, over 1,148 hours developing his academic comprehension skills, and over 1,040 hours with his team sport of crew.

Evan is passionate about Middle Eastern traditions, culture, and history, and his goal is to work in international finance.

Evan, your service and dedication to South Jersey is wonderful, and your accomplishments make clear that you have a bright, a very bright, future ahead of you.

Congratulations on your achievement. We are very proud of you in South Jersey.

Evan, keep on going.

WHERE IS OUR INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN?

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

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, in our first 200 days in this Congress, we have passed an incredible amount of legislation to root out corruption, protect healthcare, and combat the opioid epidemic.

Unfortunately, most of it, though, has died in the legislative graveyard of the Senate at the hands of MITCH MCCONNELL.

Now, there have been rare moments, like the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, where we have managed to do the right thing.

But as we prepare to go back for a month of work outside of these Chambers, I ask one simple question: Where is our infrastructure bill? Because my constituents at home are sick and tired of their commute; sick and tired of their bridges and their roads that are falling apart.

So I put this question to each and every Member of the House, leadership in both parties, and the President himself.

Let's get the job done. Let's pass a real infrastructure bill.

And you know what? If the Republicans do not want to play ball, if they don't even want to sit at the table with us, then let's pass something out of this Chamber and put a very simple question to the Senate, a very simple question to the President of the United States: Whose side are you on?

Are you on the side of the lobbyists, the corporate PACs, the wealthiest amongst us?

Or are you finally on the side of the hardworking Americans that you try

to speak to every few years during election season?

□ 1830

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCANLON). The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to possible resumption of legislative business.

THE CRISIS AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, to begin Special Orders, I ask for unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Representatives POCAN, PORTER, TLAIB, and JAYAPAL. We are here today to call for justice for immigrants. We are here to put a spotlight on President Trump's harmful attacks on immigrants and asylum seekers.

Since President Trump took office, he has implemented some of the harshest and most racist immigration policies in our country's history. Trump is also repeating one of the worst themes in our history, that of relentless attacks designed to divide our country. Trump wants people to think that brown and black immigrants are not worthy of compassion, legal due process, or human rights.

Despite organizing in our communities, the Trump White House has continued to push forward its anti-immigrant agenda. As an immigrant myself, the stories break my heart and make me really angry.

A year ago, the separation of families and the caging of children shocked the conscience of Americans. A year later, we all mourned the deaths of Oscar Martinez Ramirez and his daughter Angie Valeria, who were found on the edge of a river embankment, both drowned in an effort to reach the promise of America.

We used to think that sharing vulnerable images of the deceased children would elicit our deepest emotions and that would be enough for change, but even after the deaths of Oscar and his daughter, children continued dying at the hands of this administration, and nothing has changed.

It is tempting to become desensitized. It is easy to believe that this is the new normal. This is anything but

normal. This is unprecedented. Whenever a scandal comes out or the President feels threatened, he comes after immigrants and those who do not look like him.

It is unconscionable that the President has put lives, families, children, and communities in danger in a blatant effort to distract the media and our country.

Today is an opportunity for my colleagues and me to, one, put a face on the people being impacted by these policies—people are real lives—frame this as the agenda of a President and a party who seek to hold power by dividing Americans, and to remind our country that every attack is connected. This is all part of a broader agenda of hate.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I am really so proud and grateful to join you, Congressman GARCÍA. We are both from Illinois, and we see some of the same examples of the fear that is plaguing our communities wherever there are immigrants.

And I want to tell you, I take this issue very personally. Neither of my parents were born in the United States of America, but they came here as small children with their parents, who made a really good life.

My grandfather had a horse and wagon and actually sold vegetables in Humboldt Park, part of your district right now, carrying heavy bags of potatoes up and down the stairs.

Four children, and they all went to college. They made a good life, and now his granddaughter is in the United States Congress.

Well, I will tell you, my grandparents, my parents did not live with the fear that this President has brought to millions and millions of people and, of course, people in our district.

I want to just tell you that exactly 1 week ago today, I flew home, landed at O'Hare Airport in Chicago, and heard that something was happening over at the international terminal, that there was now a crowd of people and there were children ages, I think it was 16, 10, and 9, minors, who were being held at the airport. These were citizen children.

Why were they being held there? They came from Mexico. They had been there on vacation. They came with an adult relative of theirs who had a valid passport, but for some reason Customs and Border Protection sent that adult back to Mexico—we are investigating exactly why—and now said only the mother could pick up these minor children.

Well, I get that, except that their brother, who is a DACA recipient older than them, an adult, came to pick them up, and they were not released. A lawyer was there with a signed affidavit witnessed by members of the consulate, the Mexican consulate. They would not release the children to her.

By now, there was a crowd of people holding signs "Release the children." They had arrived at about 3 in the morning. They were given two cots during the night, meaning one of those girls had to sleep on the floor.

This is what is happening at the border, of course—mistreating children.

So, finally, there was an agreement that was made: Okay, Mom will come. Guess what? Mom is undocumented. She was afraid to come, but she came, surrounded by the Mexican consulate, by the lawyer, by me, to make sure that she was able to take her children home.

We heard that members of Customs and Border Protection said—and we are investigating this, too—that, if these were normal circumstances, that mother would have been detained.

Understand, they would have detained the mother of citizen children who just wanted to travel to Mexico, come home, and go be with their parents.

What is going on in the United States of America? We fear that children like that are being used to lure undocumented parents to the airport. That is what we fear. And this is just one example of one family, of one problem that had to be resolved.

I am telling you, I am so heartbroken. I am going to the border on Wednesday, and I want to go see again for myself what is going on down there.

But we have to say, no, this cannot happen. We are the country of the Statue of Liberty, the Statue of Liberty that welcomed my father and his family to this country, not the family of walls and fear and mistreatment and children dying in custody.

No, Mr. President, this is not the America that we all deserve.

And thank you, Congressman, for leading this discussion.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman GARCÍA for yielding.

I am from Vermont, and it is hard to be farther from the southern border in the United States than being in Vermont, but the question that people ask me in Vermont, really, more than anything else, is how is it that in the name of our government, under the authority of our flag, we have instituted a policy, since rescinded, to take children away from parents? How is that possible?

The President talks about a crisis at the border. No argument about that; there is a crisis at the border. But is the right response to it that you separate families? Is the right response that you call the people who are coming gang members and rapists and killers?

I went to the border, as well, and met many of the women and the men and the children who were there, and as you know better than anybody—and, by the way, I really appreciate your

leadership on this and the leadership of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus—the people who are there are there out of desperation.

One woman I spoke to, who was from Guatemala, told us that she had a 13-year-old daughter, and her husband had already been murdered, and the mother was told that her daughter was going to become the girlfriend of one of the gang members. It was that fear that made her leave her home.

People do not want to leave their home, and they only do it when they absolutely have to to save their lives.

She and her daughter set out in the night for the more than 1,000-mile journey to the southern border. About two-thirds of the way there, the mother started getting nervous, hearing stories, wondering what it would be like, and said to her daughter: Honey, we have got to go back.

The daughter looked at the mother and said: Mom, we can't. We are not safe. You are not safe, and I am not safe.

They arrived at the southern border, and they make an effort to cross the bridge and are not allowed because of the go-slow policy and no capacity to "process."

They wade across the river and turn themselves in, and their request is for asylum. That has been criminalized by the Trump administration. The daughter and the mother are separated.

When we were with the mom, she didn't know where her daughter was. Is she a rapist? Is she a criminal? Is she an MS-13 member? She is a mom trying to protect her daughter. She is a mother who lost her husband already.

Now, there is not an easy answer to that, and none of us suggest there is. But it is not the answer to say that anybody who is seeking to save their life, fleeing economic desperation, fleeing physical violence, seeking to protect a son or a daughter, is a criminal. They are asking for help.

And it is a tough question: How much help can we give? We have to have secure borders, but are we solving the problem by making it a crime to ask for help? Are we solving the problem by taking kids and separating them from their parents? Are we solving the problem where we cut aid off to the countries Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, where most of the people are coming from? The answer to that is no.

And this is a hard problem, but it can't be resolved unless there is some mutual recognition on both sides that it is something we have to work together to try to address.

There are refugees around the world. There are some refugees who are coming to our southern border. But this is becoming a worldwide problem, and it is a combination of factors of failed states, of environmental damage, of economic desperation; and we have to address this in a way that we acknowledge the obligation we have to one another.

So my hope is that the President, whose leadership on this is absolutely

essential, tones it down and acknowledges that this is an issue that we have to work together to solve, and it is not just the heel of the boot that is going to solve it, not just the punitive measures of taking kids from parents that is going to solve it, not just cutting off aid to Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador that is going to solve it.

We are ready to work, and we need to work because it is, more than anything else, essential that we acknowledge the responsibility all of us have, whatever our policies are, to treat people humanely.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. GARCÍA so much for his work on this, and I pledge to continue working with the gentleman every way I can.

□ 1845

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman WELCH, Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus for allowing me to lead this conversation.

The remarks of the previous speaker are a good segue to some background information from a historical context that I will share in the rest of the proceeding.

Migrants are escaping some of the harshest regimes in Central America, where political and economic turmoil have generated abject poverty, abuse, and violent crime.

Unlike many previous waves of immigrants, Central Americans are not arriving for purely economic reasons or to pursue the American Dream. Instead, they are coming to seek safety and the chance to live without fear of death, rape, or abuse.

Those coming to our border now are families, newborns, children, and pregnant women escaping life-or-death situations as well as poverty. These deeply rooted causes and push factors help explain why so many Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Hondurans are fleeing their countries and heading toward the U.S.

El Salvador. El Salvador has been trapped in a cycle of violence that can be traced back to its civil war, in which the U.S. was complicit.

The MS-13 gang, which many politicians like to talk about, and frequently referred to by the President in justification of his hardline immigration policies, was actually formed in L.A., in Los Angeles, California, and introduced into El Salvador when its members were deported, often to a country they barely knew.

Guatemala also comes out of a great conflict in that country. Jakelin Caal Maquin, the 7-year-old Guatemalan girl who died in El Paso in December from cardiac arrest caused by severe dehydration and shock, was forced to leave her home due to severe poverty. Her relatives explained that her father did all he could to stay in the land, but necessity made him try to get to the U.S.

Honduras. Gender-based violence is the second leading cause of death for

women in Honduras. In a country where emergency contraception and abortion are banned even for rape victims, survivors of sexual violence have few options if they become pregnant. They can seek to terminate the pregnancy and risk prison time, or they can go through with it and face one of the highest maternal mortality rates in all of Latin America.

As a parent, I understand and empathize with parents who will do whatever it takes to give their children a better life. When you have a gun to your head, people threatening to rape your child, extort your business, or force your son to work for the cartels, what would you do?

Aid to the Northern Triangle region of Central America is a long-standing pillar of American foreign policy supported by most Democrats and Republicans in Congress. Providing humanitarian aid to countries in the Northern Triangle will help stabilize those economies and lift millions out of poverty in the process.

Establishing economic stability in those nations is at the root of an effective strategy to reduce the current surge in migrants seeking asylum and, ultimately, an effort to solve the root causes of the humanitarian crisis at the border.

Despite this understanding from the State Department, the Trump administration is reducing aid. Annual assistance to Central America has declined by nearly 30 percent since fiscal year 2016. Funding is crucial to programs that focus on good governance, economic growth, and social welfare in the Northern Triangle.

This is an issue of national security in our country and basic human needs and dignity abroad.

Instead of receiving children and families with open arms, President Trump is cutting foreign aid for countries in the Northern Triangle, further exacerbating conditions there and ultimately feeding into his manufactured crisis at the border. Potentially hundreds of thousands more will be forced to make the difficult decision and head toward the U.S., and the administration knows this.

Aid is not an immediate fix or the ultimate solution. An investment in the region can, however, help mitigate violence, corruption, and poverty, which can help over the long term.

The State Department's recent announcement to put \$180 million on hold, to divert further funds, will impact political stability and economic opportunities in those countries and, therefore, the push factors affecting migration.

President Trump was right when he declared a crisis at the border. What he failed to explain is the role this administration has played in aggravating the situation.

There is real suffering. Every day, refugees arriving at the southern border are being detained and held in inhumane conditions, children locked in cages and infants dying in our care.

The bottom line is very simple. The President has made the crisis at the border significantly worse, and it will only intensify with cuts in foreign assistance to the Northern Triangle.

President Trump is waging an assault on all fronts against immigrants and asylum seekers and a full assault against the very morals and founding principles of our country, principles of acceptance, inclusiveness, and refuge for those who seek its shelter.

In the interior, for Americans living away from the border, it can often seem like the President's assault on immigrants and asylum seekers is a distant issue we see on the news, but the truth is that the President's terrorizing of communities extends to our backyards, our schools, our neighborhoods, and our church congregations throughout the country.

I want to take a moment to share a story and give a face to the problem. Without understanding our own personal stake in the well-being of our friends, coworkers, and neighbors, we cannot fully grasp the extent of the President's assault. Nothing we do in these Halls is worth debating if we are not willing to understand how our decisions ultimately affect people's lives.

ICE raids are happening not only at the border. These government actions that separate families and tear children from their mothers are happening in well-established immigrant communities around the country, including many in my district in Chicago.

Francisca Lino, a mother and grandmother from Chicago, is living this reality as we speak. She is married to a U.S. citizen. She has three U.S.-citizen children and other grandchildren.

A law-abiding, hardworking woman who had never received even a parking ticket in her life received an order of deportation under the Trump administration. As a result, she was forced to seek sanctuary in a church, where she has been living for the past 2 years. During this time, besides being away from her children and husband, she also missed the birth of her grandson Diego.

Confined to a space that welcomed her but is not by any means suitable for someone to live without the possibility of ever going out, Francisca and her family are asking for our help.

If she ever tried to step out for a moment, she can be sure that she would be caught by ICE officials, who are constantly surveilling the church.

Her decision to fight back against Trump's cruel immigration policies have taken a toll on her family. Her daughters have suffered emotional trauma, but that is not all. As a provider for her family, the void she left when she took sanctuary has been felt economically as well.

In my district and around the country, there are many people like Francisca who have been nothing but law-abiding, hardworking neighbors, contributing to our economy by paying taxes and supporting the community they live in.

In return, however, many of our neighbors, who are no different than ourselves, save for the lack of certain papers, have been met with oppression from an administration that is hellbent on using immigrants as scapegoats to explain the deep-rooted problems in our country.

It is up to Congress to point out the real problems and stop Trump's xenophobic and irrational policies.

ICE raids throughout the country continue to terrorize families and communities, hurt our local economies and small businesses, and rip U.S.-citizen children from their parents.

The President's assault on immigrants goes well beyond the border. It is terrorizing those all around us for nothing other than political gain.

Blatant suppression of votes and intimidation of communities across the land: Recent news that the Census will be printed without the citizenship question is a victory for everyone in this country. This is especially important for historically undercounted groups, including communities of color, people living in large housing units, and immigrants.

Every single person in our democracy counts and must be counted in the Census to distribute Federal funding and resources accurately. The Constitution is clear on this topic. The final Census count determines so much of our daily lives: new hospitals and schools, representation in government, funding programs like Medicaid. Ensuring everyone counts ensures funding for the programs our constituents need and for healthy neighborhoods.

Recently released documents have proven what we already suspected, that the Trump administration announced the addition of a citizenship question in yet another attempt to disenfranchise and intimidate the immigrant community. It was a cheap political move to undermine the integrity of the Census.

Is this person a citizen of the United States? A seemingly small question, but one with so many implications. This is especially true for children, including U.S.-citizen children living in mixed-status families, families that might avoid the Census for fear of their information being shared.

Our fight to count every single person is not over. We still have a lot of work ahead of us.

The back-and-forth of the citizenship question left many of my constituents scared and confused. This remains the administration's goal.

While President Trump has backed down from his attempt to add a citizenship question to the Census, he is directing U.S. agencies to provide all information they have on U.S. citizenship. In other words, he continues to use any means of intimidation to threaten immigrants. When one method is blocked, he tries another.

Ensuring a complete count on the 2020 Census is a fight we can win. I started working on it as a Cook County

commissioner and will continue working to ensure that every single person is counted. Our representation, schools, hospitals, and healthcare depend on it.

The President continues to weaponize his office in every possible way. We must fight back until we have justice for all and justice for immigrants.

Madam Speaker, today, we have heard powerful stories and comments from my colleagues from all around the country about the countless ways that President Trump is driving an anti-immigrant agenda and terrorizing communities all around the country, whether it is the detention of American citizens, Trump ending asylum protections and eligibility, changes to the citizenship test, placing children in cages to send a message, or leaving women and children in inhumane conditions at detention camps.

We must remember that this administration is not only hurting immigrants, but it is hurting citizens, mixed-status families, and entire communities, Black, White, Asian, and Latino.

These harmful tactics may be aimed at a few, but they are harming us all.

□ 1900

Trump's assault on immigrants and asylum seekers is an assault on all Americans, an assault on our values of inclusivity, an assault on our history of welcoming the world's tired and weary. He is leading a full-court press on the very soul of who we are as Americans.

Deeply disturbing is the fact that we know that Trump's ongoing attacks on immigrants are deeply rooted in racism. We see it in the Muslim ban, we see it in the 2020 census citizenship question, and the public charge rule. Trump says that criminals, drug dealers, and rapists are invading our country casting a generalization over communities all over the land. That is false. It is the reason he wants fewer immigrants from s-hole countries and more from northern European countries like Norway, or so he has said.

When a crowd chanted recently "Send her back" in response to Trump's attacks against my colleagues, we knew it was never about legal immigration. As an immigrant, I take this personally.

When the President announced ICE raids, we know his intent was to deliberately terrorize Black, Brown, and immigrant communities.

Livelihoods and families are at stake and many in the communities, like the ones I represent, were thrown into fear and trauma when the President threatened raids over Twitter.

Parents today are forced to have tough conversations with their children to set up emergency plans in the event they would not return home from work. This is sad and tragic.

While the President continues to attack immigrants and asylum seekers, I remind my constituents that this is

not the time to be fearful or timid, this is the time to keep fighting, to act like courageous Americans, and those who aspire to be Americans, as well.

We are a nation of many peoples and certainly of immigrants. America is and has been great, precisely because we have long welcomed immigrants with open arms and will continue doing so. To be American is to be of immigrant heritage, with the exception of our Native American sisters and brothers, all of whom have also suffered because of tactics to divide us by race, by creed, or by country of origin.

Together, we are stronger than this President. And no matter how long this assault on immigrants and asylum seekers goes on, it is in our blood, as Americans, to never lose faith in the fight for equal human dignity and opportunity for all. We must fight until there is justice for all and justice for immigrants in America.

If we are talking about Trump's assault on immigrants, we cannot leave out what the President has done to Dreamers. At the beginning of his administration, the President rescinded DACA under the authority of then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions. That action was the opening salvo in President Trump's assault on immigrants using the power of the Oval Office.

The decision to end DACA and the DACA program was a direct attack on young men and women, all of whom were brought into this country through no decision of their own. Many came as babies.

Many DACA recipients or Dreamers call no other country but America their home. Unfortunately, they have to work harder than anyone else to have access to the same opportunities afforded to their friends and classmates in the same country that we all love.

That is the case of Elizeth Arguelles, a 23-year-old Dreamer from my district. She is also from my neighborhood of Little Village in Chicago. Elizeth is paying her way through college by making and selling tamales.

At age 9, she learned to make tamales and started helping her mother sell them in the streets of Chicago. Since elementary school, she has been waking up at 3:30 in the morning to make the tamales before going out to sell them at 7:30.

Elizeth will graduate from college next year, and we could say her story is a hallmark of success and American perseverance. Saying so, however, ignores the dark reality of her situation. Her story is, by all means, a picture-perfect example of America's spirit and hard work and perseverance. She deserves that credit.

Her story, however, is far from a feel-good story. Rather, it is yet another example of how our political system has failed hardworking people in our country.

Elizeth's success is hers alone. Our government has and continues to fail her by maintaining an anti-immigrant policy that fails to account for children

brought here against their own conscious will.

It is a reminder that the Dream and Promise Act passed in the House of Representatives must be passed in the Senate immediately. Up to 2.5 million immigrants across the country, people like Elizeth, would be eligible for protection under H. Res. 6, including 37,000 immigrants in Chicago alone.

Through the Dream and Promise Act, Elizeth and her family and over 85,000 people in my city who live in mixed-status families would have legal certainty.

I applaud Elizeth's perseverance and determination to fulfill her dream of graduating from a 4-year university. But I also hope that the Members of the Senate are hearing the cries of aspiring young Americans who want to continue to contribute to our country, to lead our country, and to be exemplary citizens by giving them a path to legalization and citizenship.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, first, I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Illinois, Congressman GARCÍA, not only for his legacy and leadership here in the United States Congress, but really for the work of reconciliation and friendship in the great city of Chicago, working with so many different groups and understanding the myriad of issues dealing with immigrants.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to, first of all, say to my fellow Americans—that was something utilized by President Lyndon Baines Johnson. And I would think that, as he said it many, many years ago, America was less diverse—I use it now, because I think it is important in a Nation that is enormously diverse, that we, in fact, use the words “fellow Americans,” so that we cannot pit one group of Americans against another, these immigrants against those who are here, or those who have been immigrants that have come and now have either gotten status or been here for a long time. Let us not let the administration pit one American against another. We are, in fact, really our brothers' and sisters' keeper.

When I think of immigrants, I think of every single person who has come to this Nation. They have come in many different colors and in many different eras. Yes, Native Americans were already here. Yes, African Americans came as slaves. But then, as the years passed, there were people of African descent who came as immigrants. There were Irish and Italians, there were people from Britain and Germany, and there were people from South Asia, Asia, and Asia Pacific. And, of course, there are those who have now come from the southern border.

Why do we have the right to be able to demonize individuals who have come in a recent time, individuals who simply want an opportunity to work, to

contribute, and, yes, to put on the uniform?

I am reminded of Captain Khan and his wonderful family. Captain Khan was a Pakistani who died in the recent war in Iraq. He came here to this country. His family came here to this country.

So, I join with my colleague to say that we must pass comprehensive immigration reform, but we must pass the legislation that includes the American Dream and Promise Act. We must recognize that we have to confront the issue of dealing with the treatment of those who have come most recently.

How do we deny it, when those of us who have been to the border, for example, literally talked to persons who have said they watched their father being beat to death and they watched as the MS-13, who are wanted in that country, come to make them a member? How are you going to challenge that?

How do you challenge a woman who got on the road and had her baby on the road because people in the neighborhood said she owed them money and they were going to kill her?

How do you answer an aunt who went to the store and came back and found all of her nieces and nephews drugged and individuals in the house and all they had to do was escape for their life?

So, I believe that standing here today is recognizing that there must be a solution.

Let me share with you just some of the comments from a hearing that we had on the oversight of family separation and CBP short-term custody under the Trump administration.

In March 2017, former Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly announced that DHS was considering a proposal to separate families at the southern border as a means of deterring migration. And that is what they did.

Today, it was indicated that they had not reunited every one of those children that had been separated. Who of us in America would welcome the idea of children being snatched from you? You wanted that child. This wasn't a situation of abuse. And then you come to find out they could not find you or find your child to reunite.

In a September 2018 report, the DHS Inspector General found that DHS was not fully prepared to implement the administration's zero-tolerance policy or to deal with some of its aftereffects. Can you imagine that? They just didn't have the facilities to deal with this very detrimental policy.

What about asylum? That is international law. That is a law that allows individuals fleeing persecution to come to any country and seek asylum under their laws. Under our law, if you are in credible fear, you could seek asylum. Those administrations that were reasonable recognized that domestic violence could be taken into consideration.

But let us realize where we are: The Trump administration eliminated domestic violence right out and then wanted to eliminate the rights of those individuals to file for asylum. Just recently, a lawsuit said, no, Mr. President, you cannot do that. You cannot do that and deny the rights under international law and national law for these individuals to be able to use the process that has been granted to so many before them.

And then, of course, this report from the Office of Inspector General that—in actuality, a report was made public on July 2, though it was given to the Department of Homeland Security much earlier than that, but I think this was a report on the CBP and BP facilities at the border. Let me recognize, of course, the need to provide resources.

We voted on a \$4.6 billion appropriations at the beginning of July to be able to help and to provide better resources. But one of the things that was said to the Secretary of Homeland Security: “DHS needs to address dangerous overcrowding among single adults at El Paso Del Norte processing center.”

And: “DHS needs to address dangerous overcrowding and prolonged detention of children and adults in the Rio Grande Valley.”

This is not SHEILA JACKSON LEE or Congressman GARCÍA, this is the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General's report.

We are, in fact, our brothers' and sisters' keeper. We are many colors as immigrants. Africans are coming across the border, fleeing for their lives, seeking relief.

All we have to do is to follow our laws to allow the asylum process to proceed and those individuals to be rendered a judgment that they can stay or not stay. And then to use our refugee resettlement and our humanitarian agencies to either help settle them in the United States or resettle them as they go back out of the United States.

There's also the possibility of having an agreement that after their asylum has failed, if it does, that they can remain with opportunities in Mexico, which was originally spoken about.

But since I have been to the place in Mexico where the policies of the President are to keep them in Mexico, I can tell you that Mexico at the border does not have the resources, does not have the housing, and does not have the jobs to take care of those individuals who are there.

□ 1915

Madam Speaker, I want to make it very clear, as I started out, my fellow Americans, on this floor, this particular Democratic Congress in the majority has recognized the importance of Americans.

We have passed legislation to bring down prescription drugs costs, to protect against eliminating preexisting conditions, and to bring down insurance costs. We just passed the historic

\$15-an-hour wage increase as Federal law. We are working on gun safety.

We are working on issues dealing with Americans. But we must call our higher angels and recognize the responsibility of this Nation to address the concerns of its people.

So, as I conclude my remarks, let me say that I hope that we will be able to work together on the 9,000 children who are held by the Department of Health and Human Services in what we call shelters, and to realize or to state—let me state it publicly to Health and Human Services, whom I worked with on the Obama administration—that these shelters do not belong to Health and Human Services. They belong to the people of the United States, funded with taxpayer dollars, and that means the Members of the United States Congress.

No Member of Congress should be blocked from going into these facilities. No Member of Congress should be blocked from talking to these young people who want to talk to them and tell them that they have been in these centers for 3 months, 100 days. They are not supposed to be there that long. There needs to be a system put in place to expedite these youngsters. One youngster wants to go back home to Mexico. He is still there.

So I want to put Health and Human Services on notice not to block any of us from coming in, facilitating how we are to interact with these young people, to provide them comfort and understanding of how we can move their cases along—not pull them out, not break the law, not disrespect the system, but to help the system, overloaded, choked down, not concerned, to move forward on behalf of these young people.

I thank Congressman GARCÍA for giving me the opportunity to share some of my thoughts about how we have to fix the broken immigration system, which includes recognizing that many people who are here working, paying taxes, paying a mortgage, have come here through no fault of their own, and, as well, their families, who are here seeking opportunity.

I believe that, together, in a bipartisan manner, we could really do this, as we have done for immigrants who have come to this country in the 1800s and the 1900s, and they have now integrated into our society.

Let me thank the gentleman so much for his leadership on this.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JACKSON LEE for her words.

To close this evening, I want to call our attention again to what we are seeking to do in this Special Order hour, which is to again highlight and shed a spotlight on the administration's assault on immigration and asylum seekers that is taking place.

I do it seeking to express the sentiment, the concerns, and the aspirations of, especially, immigrant groups in my district whom I represent.

And who are they? They are people who have come from Asia, who have come from Germany, who have come from Ireland, who have come from Eastern Europe, who have come from Africa and the Caribbean, as well as Latin America, and even other countries.

It is my hope that, as the House of Representatives begins its summer recess, this Congress and the White House will reflect on the Nation's great history of welcoming people who are fleeing oppression and, as Congresswoman JACKSON LEE noted, that we allow our better angels to impact, to inspire, and to move us.

As we continue our path, striving to become a more perfect Union, there isn't a better way forward than by embracing those who are fleeing persecution, those who are fleeing violence, and those who are fleeing terrible conditions in the countries that they were born in.

I want to thank the Congressional Progressive Caucus for its assistance in arranging for this Special Order hour. I want to thank those who have joined me tonight to share their stories.

Madam Speaker, we can and we must do better.

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

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I have a three-part series, and I would like to open at this moment and yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), my good friend.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for offering me just a moment to talk about something that is very important to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise today at a time when the United States and the international community must step up efforts to combat money laundering.

Money laundering is a critical source of funding for terrorist organizations and drug cartels like the ones that my good friend from Florida might be talking about tonight. These are drug cartels and other organized crime rings. It is used to disguise profits from or financing for illicit activity.

Money is moved in a variety of ways across borders and through the global financial markets to evade detection by law enforcement—global financial markets just like ours. While exact numbers can't be determined, estimates suggest that annual sums of money laundering are in the trillions of dollars—trillions.

Money laundering facilitates a broad range of serious underlying crimes, including the financing of North Korea's and Iran's nuclear proliferation networks and the activities of terrorist operations. Money laundering also plays a significant role in drug, human, and wildlife trafficking.

In today's world, money launderers rely on both new and old methods. The crime is conducted through shell companies, bulk cash smuggling, gambling, cyber-related methods, and investments in mobile commodities, including things that you might not think about, like gems and real estate—yes, real estate.

For example, we have recently seen a rise in money laundering through luxury real estate purchases. Some people come to me and say there is a housing crisis. Well, when money launderers are inflating the cost of housing by laundering money through overpaying for a property, that is a problem for vulnerable populations in the United States. These real estate purchases happen in major U.S. cities as well as international cities like London and Dubai.

Madam Speaker, money laundering threatens political stability, democracy, and free markets around the globe, and we must take steps to counter it right now.

I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding to me.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROSEWOOD

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I am entering into the second phase of my Special Order.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rosewood and reflect upon the tragedy that happened in 1923.

Rosewood was a small, rural town in my district. It is in northwest central Florida, in between Otter Creek, Chiefland, and Cedar Key. It was built around the pencil mill and turpentine industry. It was a mixed town of Blacks and Whites.

In 1915, it had a population of approximately 355 people. The town had started to become segregated. The neighboring town of Sumner was developed at the time and was primarily White.

In January of 1923, a young White woman claimed that a Black man had assaulted her. The accusation started a riot, ultimately resulting in the burning of the entire town and the death of countless members of the Rosewood community.

Within hours of the violence starting, many survivors fled to the surrounding woods, where they hid and waited for a rescue train that was sent there to take people out of the area of violence.

At the end of the week, only one building remained standing, and to this day, the death toll is still unknown, and no buildings remain.

The story by the young White woman was found to be a lie. She was the Black man's lover. Her significant other beat her, and she lied and blamed the young Black man to save face.

The Rosewood massacre, which occurred just outside of my district, is one that went nearly forgotten for over 60 years because of the destructive nature of prejudice and hatred caused by the survivors who lived in fear, rarely sharing their stories, even with families and close friends.

I firmly believe that in order to learn from our history, we have to make an effort to remember it. We should memorialize these events, and that is why we put up plaques. We put up markers or statues, lest we forget it, and within a generation or two, the mistakes of the past are repeated because the next generation will grow ignorant of the struggles of the past.

When the stories of Rosewood first started recirculating in the 1980s, it brought in a new level of awareness to the State of Florida and the understanding that we, as a society, cannot be complacent in senseless acts of violence. It even inspired a movie in Hollywood to illustrate the ugliness of the past hatred and the violence.

Violence and prejudice have no place in our society, and we have a duty to ensure that this type of tragedy never happens again.

Today, in Rosewood, a marker stands just off the highway memorializing the town that never returned. Survivors and their descendants have shared their stories, hoping that Rosewood's memory would not be erased.

One of these is a constituent of mine, Ms. Lizzie Jenkins, who has been working on this tragedy for the last 25 years. Her goal and ours is for individuals to remember and to never forget the hatred, the racism of the past, and to honor those who suffered in the past so future generations do not repeat the pain, suffering, and mistakes of the past.

She has a dream to accomplish this, and that is to create the Rosewood Museum.

Madam Speaker, it has been almost a century since the Rosewood massacre. By remembering and learning from this tragedy, we can work towards a future full of acceptance. Knowing Ms. Jenkins, I can confidently say that there will be a Rosewood Museum.

SOLVING THE PROBLEM AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I would like to move on to the third portion of my Special Order. We are going to talk about how to solve the problem at the southwest border and how to move beyond border security.

I just listened to an hour of people ranting and putting blame on this President for the hatred, the racism he has caused. I heard the Member on the other side talk about the ban on Muslims.

We can't move forward and fix things if we use false narratives. There was not a ban on Muslims. President Trump put a ban on countries. In fact, they are the same six countries that President Obama put a ban on and recommended to put a ban on. There was never a ban on Muslim countries.

I went to Indonesia on a codel, a bipartisan one, and there was a Member of this Congress from the other side who asked the Indonesian Prime Minister at the time: What is the sentiment in a Muslim country about a ban from our President—President Trump at the time—about the Muslim ban that he has placed on there?

He knew good and well that President Trump didn't ban Muslims in this country. He put the ban on the same six countries that President Obama did, but there was no complaint.

I bring that up just because, if we are going to solve the problems of this country, one that this body—look at it. It is empty. There are two Members of Congress in here, and they have been complaining—I am sorry. I stand corrected, Madam Speaker. There are three Members of Congress.

But if we are going to fix this problem, it is going to take more than three of us. I am sure everyone agrees. They sit there and they give great speeches about how it is tearing our country apart. The President is tearing our country apart. What a shame this is, the hatred, the vitriol that is coming out of the White House, how people are being taken away from their families, and there are no toothbrushes or diapers, or they are sleeping on floors.

I am just glad the other side is acknowledging that there is a crisis, but for the first half of the year, there wasn't a crisis. They refused to say there was a crisis.

There was a Special Order here last week, and my good colleague, Mr. KING, was here. We had other Members, and we had pictures from 2014 when President Obama was here. It was funny because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were railing about the crisis in 2014.

□ 1930

There have been times in this body when the Democrats had the majority in the House, the Senate, and the White House. There were times, and I was there, when the Republicans had the same majority, the House, the Senate, and the White House.

It saddens me because this discussion about our having to fix these things, when both parties were in control, they didn't do it. What really saddens me is I see people using political opportunities for their next election. I heard a lot of that tonight. There were no solutions in that.

We talked for an hour last week about the crisis at the border, the situation at the border, and the atrocities at the border. The drug cartels are profiting from this. We stay as a divided House. I implored President Trump—and I will do it again tonight—that he needs to call Congress back in session when we reconvene tomorrow, and I would do it every time this body goes on a break until we fix our border security and until we come up with an immigration bill.

I want to move into what I really want to talk about. In order to move

forward, we have to have solutions. I have been here for 7 years, and I have seen “comprehensive” come up in healthcare, and I have seen “comprehensive” come up in immigration. What I have learned is that when you put “comprehensive” in front of a cause, it doesn't happen. It is political speak that says it is not going to happen because the room becomes divided, and everybody uses it as a political tool for the next election.

What I want to do is, instead of trying to do comprehensive immigration reform, I want to focus on a small bite of the apple.

We have a proposal. We have legislation that we are working through the House in a bipartisan manner. We have shared this with over 40 Members of Congress in a bipartisan manner, and we have shared this with the Senate in a bipartisan manner. It is a guest worker program.

The bill will be a guest worker program. There will be three silos, agriculture, hospitality, and construction. These are all positions that, in general, are in the lower-skilled fields. They are not rocket scientists, and they are not engineers. These are the skills that we need in our labor workforce for agriculture, for food security, for construction, and for our hospitality. In the past, we have not had a good program for people to come into the country legally and stay in the field that they have decided to work in.

This bill will be under a banner, but there will be three separate bills. The first bill will be a guest worker program for agriculture, and that is what I would like to focus on tonight.

America has the lowest-cost food of the industrialized world because our farmers can produce so well. But they can't benefit from that if we don't have the workers willing to go out and work in the fields.

I was a person who, at the age of 15, worked in produce. We loaded trucks. The produce came in from the farm, and we loaded the produce. I did that to work my way through college. Yet, today, people said that domestic people, Americans, won't do that work. I disagree with that, and I think we put a stigma on that.

In order to fix this, we have to have a labor solution, or our farmers won't be able to keep farming. The goal of this bill is to create a dependable, reliable workforce. The way this program would work is it would be in two phases.

The first phase is that we create a prescreened pool of workers before they come into the country. We will have a relationship and an agreement between country A and our State Department.

If we pick out a country, Guatemala, the Guatemalan state department will have a relationship with our State Department. When a person applies, he becomes what we call the applicant. The country he comes from will verify the person's date of birth and their residence. Then, they will verify that this

person has not been involved in violent crimes, drug activity, or gang activity.

Once they apply, that information goes through the Department of Homeland Security. They do a background check. They do it on their international database, and they do it on the domestic database. If that person clears the database, then that information goes to the USDA. We moved the agriculture labor workforce from the Department of Labor to the USDA, where it can be better monitored to fulfill the needs of agriculture.

That person does not come into the country until a job is open. The employer in this country, an agriculture producer, still has to advertise for domestic help. When that position is not filled, the producer can ask for that worker to come in. That worker comes in under the agreement that they are going to work in the agriculture sector.

They have to be a minimum of 18 years of age. It is not chain migration. If they have family members who want to come in, they, too, can apply, but it applies to them individually.

Once they get accepted into the program and come into the country, they become a participant. At that time, they get issued a guest worker identification card that we call a GWIC card. That GWIC card will have 15 digits in there for security. In addition, it will have the initials "AG," designating that that is an agriculture worker permit.

When the worker comes in, they now have been allowed into the country legally. The work permit goes on for 5 years. That means they can stay in this country for 5 years at a time. They have to work a minimum of 75 percent of the year in agriculture, but it allows them to move back and forth to their host country seamlessly because we have an agreement between two countries.

The person can travel around the country to work a seasonal crop. In Florida, our citrus harvest is done usually by mid- to late June. That would allow that worker to go from that farm up to New York, Maine, or Washington State to work crops. He also has the ability to go back home.

That permit is good for 5 years at a time. He can renew 4½ years into it, and he can do this indefinitely. There will be a cutoff age. We are recommending approximately 50 or 55 years of age. There is a fee of \$2,500 for that.

The second part of this program will be dealing with the people here who came in illegally. Our proposal would allow a person to apply to this program under the understanding that the Federal Government is not here to deport them. The Federal Government is here to give them a way that they can get into a program and have legal residence here.

During that period of time, when the applicant is applying, there will be a waiver over that person, meaning that he won't be deported. A background

check will be done. If DHS says this person is okay, then he can enter this program. If that person has minor violations—a fender bender, didn't return a book to the library—he will have a period of time where he can get straight with the legal system.

Upon completing that, he enters into the guest worker program and becomes a participant. He, too, pays a fee of \$2,500. That is to go for running the program. In addition, there will be a fine for coming into the country illegally. What has been proposed is approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000 for the first time they apply to the program.

Every year a person renews, 4½ years into this program, there will be a \$2,500 fee, and that is subject to change as the times change.

As a person comes into the program, they get issued the guest worker identification card, which is called the GWIC card, and that will be embedded biometrics. We gave the list to the DHS to pick out what they think is necessary from facial recognition pictures, DNA, fingerprints, and retinal scans, all that they can choose from. We asked them to put enough of those biometrics in there so that card is secure.

In addition, it will have a 15-digit code that will be a hack-proof, secure card. As I said, there will be the initials "AG," designating that person as a guest worker in this country in agriculture.

He is allowed to get a driver's license. If he passes the test in a State, then he will get a guest worker driver's license. It would not be used for voter registration. It is something to give that person a driver's license so that he can work on a farm.

If that person who is here illegally gets accepted into the program and has a family who came in with him illegally, as he is applying to the program, there is a waiver over his family. If he gets accepted into the program, or they get accepted into the program, his family is also good to stay in the country for 5 years at a time, provided the participant renews 4½ years into it.

If his children came in illegally, then they are protected until the age of 18, at which time they have to make a decision to apply to one of the programs. There will be three sectors. It will be agriculture, hospitality, and construction.

At that point, again, as I said, that person can move around the country. They can work crops wherever they choose. They can go back home knowing they can get back into this country.

E-Verify will be a component of this, and it would work such that, as a person enters the program, their data is already in DHS. When they go to start their job, the employer puts their smart card, the GWIC card, into a reader. It identifies the person, a positive identification. We have eliminated probably close to 100 percent of the fraud that occurs with the current system.

We request that the individual worker has to check into a Federal office on a monthly basis. Every town in America has a Federal office, either a courthouse or a post office. Part of the \$2,500 fee goes to pay for the equipment in there. It would be inexpensive equipment. It would be the same equipment that we use when we go to do a retail sale like at a big box store. You put your card in there; it reads it; and it tells DHS and USDA where this person is.

The employer also is required to use E-Verify. This will be seamless because he is pulling people out of a pool who are already prescreened and who are in the E-Verify system. They go through this system.

E-Verify will become mandatory once we get 75 to 80 percent of the expected population that we need in our guest worker fields. At that point, all employers will be using the E-Verify system.

The beauty of this system is that we have given a portal for people to come into this country legally. We have given them a way to stay in this country for up to 5 years at a time. Then, we give them a way that we can monitor bad players who sneak into the country or employers who are hiring people here illegally that suppresses the wages of domestic workers.

If an employer hires people outside of the system once it is mandatory, when they get caught, it is a \$2,500 fee the first offense, per offense per individual. If it is a repeat offender of an employer, then that fine will go up, and they are subject to jail time.

The beauty of this is if a worker leaves a guest worker program in either agriculture, hospitality, or construction, and they try to work in a different sector and are found out by the people who are doing the inspection, they have given up their right to stay in this country on a guest worker program.

The things that we hear back about that is that people voluntarily enter this program. They have agreed to work in agriculture and agriculture only or one of the other sectors. If they work outside of that, they have agreed that they have broken that. This is a policy that is self-policing when people get found out.

For the people who choose not to enter any of these programs, they are here illegally, and they will be dealt with according to the laws on the books.

We are asking to have sequencing done on this, and the first part of that is we have to agree on border security. It is interesting because I hear this fight over border security, but when I go on trips and talk to my colleagues on the other side, they always tell me that they agree with border security and that we have to have border security. If we agree to it, let's do it.

Again, this body is empty other than us three. I think the President should call us back. Let's get border security.

Let's get this done, Madam Speaker, so that we can move on to the next thing.

We have to have enforcement of the laws on the books. We are providing a guest worker program for the majority of the people whom we need in our labor force for lower skills.

The third part of the sequencing is that we can deal with Dreamers and DACA down the road. We can't do that until we do border security and have a way for people to come into the country legally, to work in this country legally, and to take that group who came in illegally and put them in a legal process.

Madam Speaker, this is something we have shared with probably close to 60 people in a bipartisan manner. We have shared this with agriculture groups from all over the Nation, from California to Maine, New York, Washington State, Florida, Minnesota, and North Dakota, and from every sector in agriculture, from dairy to pine, timber, fruits and vegetables, citrus, and fruits and nuts. Everybody tells us this is the most commonsense reform they have seen.

We have shared it with ranking members of different committees on the Democratic side. They said this is something they plan to help support. I am excited because of the bipartisan nature in the House. We have shared this with Senators, and the Senators are working with us to make this happen. Our goal is to make this happen this Congress.

We are looking for people to go to our website, <https://yoho.house.gov>, to get more information. We have a short video that covers this.

If we do nothing, we are going to have a repeat of the last 30, 35 years, when Ronald Reagan gave amnesty to 3.5 million to 4 million people.

□ 1945

This body has sat there and argued and blamed the other side for inaction or blamed the other side for hatred and racism or blamed the other side for wanting to give everybody amnesty. If we do nothing, this problem will grow and grow and divide this Nation more.

This is the time to act, and I would hope people would come back to Congress over the break and let's get something done.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), my good friend, to say something.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for yielding to me, and I appreciate very much the work that is done by Dr. TED YOHO here in this Congress.

I would like to have the Members know, Madam Speaker, that TED YOHO gets up every day and grinds away with an eye towards making America great again and putting us in the right place. And I recall a meeting that he called together here, kind of an off-campus meeting about how we are going to save America from a Congress that

doesn't seem to want to look to the horizon, let alone over the horizon.

There is a lot of common sense that has been put together in this immigration policy, and I want to carefully evaluate all of the components of it. I know that we are in discussions right now about how it might even be improved a little bit, but I am open to this discussion, and I think he has brought up some very important points.

I will add one that I hope can be incorporated into this, to take the E-verify mandatory piece of this and expand it into a bill that I have had before this Congress a number of years. It is called the New IDEA Act, and it would work actually seamlessly with what has been described here tonight in that I incorporate the language in it, which is this:

When an employer—we put together a committee, a three-way team, the IRS, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, and require them to work together for the cause of enforcing immigration law and, in addition to the penalties that have been suggested here, deny the deductibility of wages and benefits paid to illegals.

I would give the employer safe harbor if they use E-verify, but if they are then using illegal labor, the IRS, in a normal audit, not an accelerated audit, then would come in, run the Social Security numbers and identifying information of the employees who are listed in the tax forms through the E-verify program.

If they can't be verified, the IRS then could deduct the wages and benefits paid to them, remove it as a business expense, which puts those dollars, wages, and benefits paid to illegals into the gross receipts where they show up as net income. That makes it taxable.

When we first did this math, it would be, if you would take a \$10-an-hour illegal and deny the deductibility of that under the old tax policy, it would take us to a \$16-an-hour illegal. We also would have interest and penalty, and there is a 6-year statute of limitations.

Madam Speaker, I got to this conclusion by asking the question: What agency, what department is most respected, and maybe even most feared, by the American people?

Since I have been drug through audits a few too many times, I will tell you that the business people, the employers in this country, they don't want the IRS looking into their books, and they don't see that they can negotiate much of a compromise with the IRS.

So I think giving a 6-year statute of limitations on that, you accumulate that liability, and it makes it far more likely that employers will voluntarily go in and clean up their workforce. That is something that, had that been done years ago, we wouldn't be in the situation we are in today.

The labor situation that we have, it is a bit more complex down in the

southern part of the United States than it is up in the heart of the heartland where I am. And that is that we seem to be able to find the people to climb in the tractor, in the combine, or in the trucks and get our crops in the ground; we get them back out again; and it is a little smoother up that way.

The labor situations that we see in places like Florida and California and Arizona, all those States, and many more in particular, that is a different kind of a situation.

What I would suggest, though, is that temporary workers be required to be bonded. I introduced legislation to do that, and I hope that is something we can discuss, as well, is incorporating it into this proposal.

I pointed that out to the President in a meeting in the Oval Office sometime back. He seemed to respond very favorably to that suggestion. I pointed out that he actually has the authority to go forward with a bonding program now. And so I noticed that, a few weeks later, he issued an order that directed the executive branch to do the research and put the pieces together so that they can activate a bonding program.

But think of it this way: Whether you are going to be a guest worker in the United States or a visitor to the United States, you need a visa to come to America to do that.

So when you apply for that visa, you post your credit card, just as if you walked into a hotel and they say: Your room is paid for, but we need a credit card so we can hold for any incidentals that might come.

You post that credit card on your visa application to temporarily come to America, and if you go back under the terms of the visa, then, fine, the hold is released on that credit card; but if you overstay your visa, then that credit card is charged for that fee, and that fee goes into an enforcement fund in order to enforce the immigration laws we have in this country.

We need the rule of law restored in the United States of America. No place, in all of our law, is it less respected than it is in immigration law.

And as I listened to some of the rhetoric over here on the floor tonight, it still is breathtaking to hear how intentionally the terms "legal" and "illegal" immigrant are conflated so that the very meritorious legal immigrant who respects our laws, that meritorious legal immigrant is conflated into the same term with the one who has disrespected our laws. The one who has disrespected our laws gets assigned the same merit that exists for those who respect our laws and want to come to America for an opportunity to succeed and to prosper.

But I make another point, Madam Speaker, that I don't hear in this dialogue on immigration, and that is that America has a unique vigor. We have a unique vitality. We have a can-do spirit. And a lot of that vitality, vigor, and can-do spirit comes from the legal immigrants who have had the aspiration to come to America.

And I would say that, if there is a family of 10 siblings, boys and girls together, if one of them has the ambition and the eagerness to respect our laws and come to the United States, the one who chooses to self-select to come here is going to be the one in that family who has the most ambition, the most vigor.

That is one of the reasons why America is a can-do country, because we have gotten that quality of people who self-selected as legal immigrants to come to America.

So I appreciate the gentleman's work on the immigration policy, and I look forward to examining all of the language there and have an open dialogue on this. But I also applaud the very diligent effort that has gone forth on this issue and many others.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), for the things he stands for. He is just a true patriot who loves America.

The gentleman brought up a great point. The current system allows people to use the Social Security number. So you can come into the country. You get issued a Social Security, or people will eventually, as they come in, gravitate and get on an I-9 form.

They will use a fraudulent or a fake ID number, Social Security number. They are a dime a dozen out there. There are people, counterfeiters, out there doing that.

What happens is it gums up the system. It is like an accounting nightmare, and it creates confusion for the people who are supposed to regulate this. So it gets to a point where they can't even track the people because there are so many fraudulent numbers.

Where there is confusion, there is inertia, and that is why nothing gets done. And I think you look at the current system, because it is not workable.

The H-2A was designed for seasonal agriculture workers, but we do not use it that way because it is not enforced. They are supposed to come in for 10 months, and then they go home. But the current system is you can get a waiver, and that waiver can go on for 3 years. And if it is not enforced, they forget about the waiver and they just kind of fall into the society, and nobody knows where they are at.

The beauty of this system is there is an identification number. We are proposing 15 digits in length, with the designation of "AG" in there, agriculture, plus the smart chip in there that has the biometrics.

So we separate guest workers from the rest of the population. So we have a database of just guest workers that will be a lot easier to track. It will be a lot easier to know where people are.

As people have to check into the system, the onus is on the worker. They can check in at their place of employment. They can check in at a post office. They can check in at a Federal

courthouse. And so it is going to be easy for people to stay compliant.

If they are not in compliance with checking in, they will have a grace period. They have to become compliant. If they are not compliant after a period of time, they are subject to deportation.

One of the things we talked about is what happens if somebody creates a deportable felony, and that would be something like, maybe, vehicular homicide from a DUI, which we have seen too many of those in the news. They would be subject to deportation.

If they are here with a family that they came in illegally, they got accepted into this program, if that were to happen, they have put their family at risk of deportation.

I don't like that part, but it is also that we need to look at the other side of that.

We have allowed people to come into this country to be a guest worker.

I have had the experience of being a veterinarian, practicing for 30 years, in large animals. We dealt with cattle farms, dairy farms, horse farms, people who did row crops, fruits and vegetables. Just name a crop, and we have pretty much dealt with it.

I have gotten to a point where I talked to a lot of people who were here as migrant workers, and I sympathize with them. Heck, I was still working on the farm. That was one of my ambitions of going to vet school. I wanted to be outstanding in my field, and I wound up being outstanding in everybody else's field.

But we got to know the immigrant, and we got to a point where we could ask them: Are you here legally or illegally?

They were so honest. They say: I came in illegally.

And I even asked them: Did you pay a price to come in?

They said: Yeah, \$2,000, \$5,000, \$8,000. And it shocked me that people were paying.

And this was probably 12 years ago, 11 years ago.

And I would ask them: Do you want to become a citizen?

And it would amaze me how many of these people said: No. I just want the opportunity to come here, make a living, and go home.

So one of the impetuses behind this was let's create a system where people can come, fulfill the need we have, and fulfill the need they have.

I have stayed in touch with some of these people. They have made enough money to go back home, create a farm of their own, and they don't have to come back. But they will refer people into the system.

So if we can streamline that and make it easier for people to come in when we have border security, they can come in the legal way. There is no need to sneak in.

If we can take that group that came in illegally and they move into this, the ones that know they probably don't

have a bad record, they have moved into the system.

So we can start cleaning up this mess.

And the gentleman and I just shared the analogy of working cattle. When we have all of our calves, we sort out the ones over here: the males over here; the females over here.

So it is a way to sift through the problem we have. If we do nothing, the problem is going to grow.

The H-2A system right now, one of the flaws with that, as I said, it was supposed to be a 10-month program. People come in. Our producers are paying \$1,200 to \$2,000 to get a person into the country for the permit, to get them the transportation and all that. When they come into the country, about 25 percent of the people that come in on an H-2A abscond. They go off the grid, and the producer can't get people to come back that they have hired to work and they have made that commitment.

With this system, that person will have that "AG" designation. The H-2A program will have the "AG" designation, and with the H-2A program, the goal is to make it a 10-month seasonal program. After 10 months, you go home. You have agreed to that. If you only want to work 16 weeks, you work the 16 weeks and go home.

So it gives flexibility to the worker. It gives flexibility to the producer. It creates food security for us because this is something we need. And we get rid of the adverse wage effect and we go to the prevailing wage, which usually is about 115 percent above minimum wage.

But as you and I know, people who work in agriculture, and if they are picking crops or shipping stuff, they are making \$250 to \$300 a day. They work their tails off because they are appreciative of the opportunity they have, as you said, because they want to live their dream. And they may become a citizen down the road.

There is no citizenship with this. It is a way for people to come in and work. We get rid of the touchback provision of Bob Goodlatte's bill last year, and that comes from feedback from our dairy folks and other industries: I need year-round workers.

A touchback does not work, because we have had these people who have been in here illegally for 5, 10, 15 years.

Let's work together as Americans to solve a problem so that we can sift through this and end people coming in illegally.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman if he has any other thoughts that he would like to add, he can feel free.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), and I would add that, one of the things that crosses my mind, as I talk and listen here this evening, is that the Social Security numbers, multiple uses of a single number—it might even be all zeroes, and all zeroes might be used a thousand times in America, or more.

So I hear these stories, and some of the employers will say: Well, we have followed all of the laws that we are required to follow.

But common sense isn't something that we hold them accountable for, apparently, and so the Social Security Administration, under Barack Obama started issuing no-match letters.

□ 1800

No-match letters used to go out to say this Social Security number that you are using isn't a match. Then it should go to the employer, too, and I believe it used to.

I understand that the Trump administration may be picking that back up again and issuing the no-match letters, but that is not where it should stop. That is where it should begin.

Mr. YOHO. The gentleman is exactly right. I have had producers call me. When I was in the district, they brought that up, the no-match letters. They are in a tizzy.

If we go back prior to President Obama, there were no-match letters. This is what is wrong when you have bad policy. When you get rid of a program or a requirement that is working, people get complacent. They are like: Hey, I don't have to match up to Social Security, so there is no reason for me even to apply legally.

Then, when you try to reinstate it, you get angry people, and it gums up the system again.

That is why, if we have a good system in place, there is no reason to back away from it because this will be a policy that will live beyond you and me.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. KING of Iowa. In 1986, when the Amnesty Act was signed by Ronald Reagan, there was a requirement that each employer would have I-9 documents that would be filed.

As soon as applicants came in, we took a copy of their information. We took the I-9 documents. We kept them in our files carefully. Any individual who came in and applied, we had the right file, expecting INS—Immigration and Naturalization Services, at that time—personnel to be at our door anytime, poking through all of our records, which records are probably still sitting in my archives somewhere.

That was going to work. They believed it was going to work. What happened was, slowly along the way, the ACLU filed lawsuits, and people kind of ducked and dodged. They found a way to rationalize a way around it until they got around to: Well, as an employer, I can't be required to make a judgment call. If I am looking at a picture of someone, I can't be sure that that is the face of the person who is in front of me.

They would make the presumption that was best for their business interests rather than best for the law enforcement part of it.

Then, if ICE doesn't show up when the no-match letters come through, be-

cause they are not cooperating with the Social Security Administration to go through those records when it is very probable that when a Social Security number is being used maybe in 10 places, in 10 different towns, you can't get to 10 jobs simultaneously. It should make sense that nine or at least eight of those are phony. They ought to go in and identify those employers and employees and, if there are law violations, bring charges against them.

That hasn't been happening for years in this country. It needs to happen.

This component that you proposed looks to me like it is an improvement, to segment off some of this, but I still say we need to go into the Social Security no-match and fix that.

Mr. YOHO. I think that is a great thing. That is something we do need to go into. Then, we need to have the alternative.

The gentleman brought up a good point that I have experienced, too, talking to our producers. If you get an I-9, which is the form to apply for a job, if there is a Social Security number, if you question that and don't hire that person because you think it is not legal, he has the right to sue you, and he will win. If you don't question that and hire that person, the Department of Labor or ICE shows up. They are going to fine you for hiring a person that you didn't verify.

It is a mess. How did we become the great country we are with such a—I was going to say messed up system, or something like that.

This is not rocket science. This is a simple program, and there is a commonsense reform.

One of the things I didn't bring up, and I think the gentleman had asked me about this, is that the ID number is also a tax number. Taxes will be taken out of that.

That is why I don't want Social Security associated with it, because Social Security denotes benefits, that if I am paying this, I get benefits. Those are not tied here. Money that goes in will go to other resources.

What we are proposing is that we are going to make a requirement that each person who comes in as a guest worker has to have a catastrophic health insurance policy. If you come in here and drive a car, you have to have insurance. This will be something that we are sitting down with the insurance companies about. We have a pool of about a million people who are going to need some form of catastrophic health insurance.

The other thing we are proposing is, if they are here legally, and they have a guest permit to work here, we go to direct primary care. These are companies around the country—it was amazing. I went and visited one. If you are between the ages of 18 and, I think, 25 or 30, your monthly cost for your health insurance is \$25 a month—\$25 a month. If you want blood work, it is \$40 a month in my town. If you want an MRI, it is \$250. That is affordable healthcare.

The beauty of this is the employer can bring in a group of people. He can get direct primary care for a small amount of money. We will allow him to deduct that cost. Then, there is catastrophic health insurance.

We have covered health insurance. We have covered driving insurance. We have covered a way for people to come in. We have given them a number so that we know where they are. They are not gummed up in our Social Security system.

We have started to separate into different silos or categories and envelopes where they should be so that there is rational thought to this.

The gentleman brought up rationalizing. I shouldn't have used that word. Rationalizing is to make rationale a lie. That is used too often up here.

We want to make commonsense reforms to have a program that works for the immigrants, works for our employers, and works for our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I wanted to add another piece to this. This is an observation that I think applies across this country and a lot of places today.

Some of my constituents made a practice of going out through the parking lot at the packing plant and picking up the check stubs on payday that were dropped down on the asphalt. Then, they stack a bunch of them up, put them in a big manila envelope that would kind of spring like an accordion, and mail it off to me.

Here it comes in my mailbox. What is this? There is no letter, no message, no return address. Just my address on there and all these check stubs with no names on them.

But the withholding, it tells me, is zero, zero, zero. No State withholding. No Federal withholding.

What that tells me is that we have a lot of people who are working unlawfully in America, that when they apply, they claim the maximum number of dependents, so there is zero withholding at the wage scale they have for Federal income tax or State income tax.

Yet, they still say they are paying taxes. Well, yes, there is sales tax. I suppose, in the rent, you are paying a share of the property tax. Some of those things are taking place. But that is another place the system is gamed by using Social Security numbers.

I am hopeful that the gentleman has zeroed in on a way to address that.

Mr. YOHO. We have. That is the beauty of the system. We get rid of all that. It is not a Social Security withholding. It is going to be a tax. It will be a guest worker tax, and money will be taken out.

As I said, as I have shared this with Members in a bipartisan manner, they get excited about it. Our producers get excited about it. Industry gets excited about it.

Let's work to finally be the Congress that says that we fixed this problem, and let's make the American people proud and make our Nation safer.

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

NEWS MEDIA CREATES FALSE NARRATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to have the opportunity to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and continue some of this dialogue.

I am changing the subject a little bit here this evening, Madam Speaker. I wanted to take up the topic that had this House of Representatives tied up in knots last January, about January 15 or so.

I was the direct subject of those things, and it has to do with, to refresh people's memory, a misquote on me that came out of The New York Times that alleged that I had tied three phrases together. Two of them are odious ideologies, and one of them is one of the most meritorious ideologies that the world has ever seen. Those two, it was a misquote by The New York Times.

I believe that I have introduced a document that has been publicly available since sometime last March 6, it is dated, that makes it very clear that The New York Times misquoted me and that a lot of the media out there that went into a hyperventilation fit was jumping on an issue that we have seen the pattern of many times over.

I came across a little comment about The New York Times that said, "All the news that fits the narrative." Well, that seems to be what happened last January 10, when they wrote a story on me about all the news that fits the narrative, the narrative that they had created, not necessarily the facts.

I would point out, Madam Speaker, that there has been a whole series of narratives out here that turned out to be inactionable or, perhaps, false. I would say that the biggest one and the one that tied America up in knots the longest and most intensely were the allegations against Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Of all of the folks who had accused him, none of their allegations held up. They were not corroborated in any way. It was clear that he was targeted because they didn't want a conservative constitutionalist sitting on the bench.

I am very thankful he is sitting on the bench, and I am also very thankful and grateful of the way he conducted himself throughout those hearings.

That is not the first time we have seen this. I felt great sympathy for Justice Clarence Thomas when he en-

ured what he referred to as a high-tech lynching back in the early 1990s. The allegations made against him were hyperventilation of the first order, and it was maybe the worst that we had seen.

I go back even further to Judge Bork, who became a verb when he was "borked" by the United States Senate. Allegations against him became, at a certain point, untenable and unsurvivable, from his career standpoint.

These people that I have mentioned so far were all wronged.

Let me put another one in, Madam Speaker: Covington Catholic boys down here by the Lincoln Memorial, standing there, respectfully and patiently, while a musical device was being pounded in front of one young man's face.

That turned into better than a week of intense media assaults and attacks, verbally and keyboard-wise, against those Covington Catholic boys because the media's narrative fit their narrative.

All the news that fits their narrative, but not the truth, and not stepping back to take an objective look to try to understand what is going on.

It is seldom that the world is as bad as the media would like to tell us that it is. The Covington Catholic boys were exonerated when the camera was panned back, and we looked at it as America within the full context of what was going on. They were patiently enduring and experiencing something that I am sure was a unique experience for them.

They hadn't spent time to speak of here in Washington, D.C. They hadn't been involved in a demonstration of that kind. Just innocent young men, clean-cut, one of them wearing a Make America Great cap, probably more of them doing that, and patiently there.

People would say: Have you ever seen such a punchable face? I would call it a very innocent face of a young man who kept a tight little smile on his face while he waited for that drum to be finished being beat in front of his face.

I would add another one about that same period of time, Madam Speaker, Michael Cohen, the President's attorney at that period of time, or former attorney. The news media was all over that Michael Cohen had been directed to lie to Congress by the President of the United States, Donald Trump. That was a story that lived for 4 or 5 or more days until the truth came out that that narrative was false.

False narratives on Justice Kavanaugh, false narratives on the Covington Catholic boys, false narratives on Michael Cohen.

Then, we had, at about the same time, the story on Jussie Smollett, who said that he had been attacked and, apparently, attempted to be lynched by some folks of the opposite race that he is.

It turned out that, when we saw the videos of who was buying this rope and

the other material in the store not very far from there, those folks were not there to attack Jussie Smollett because of anything to do with race. It had to do with what surely appears to be a hoax. Now, we have a Federal investigation into the prosecuting attorney in Chicago who found a way to turn Jussie Smollett loose.

That is another case where the narrative that was delivered by the media day after day after day was false, but it was the narrative that told the story that they wanted to be told, all the news that fits the narrative.

We have another one here that just recently passed behind us just a few days back. Georgia State Representative Erica Thomas made an argument and cried in front of the media that she got into an altercation in a store and was told by a man to "go back where you came from."

□ 2015

And after that was scrutinized, and after the video was watched, and after the people that were witnesses there finally came forward and got their narratives out, we found out that that story wasn't true either. It was all the news that fit the narratives of The New York Times and others, but it wasn't true, and she finally admitted it.

I have just listed some along here.

Madam Speaker, here are some other stories that were put before us where there has been no consequence and no action taken; there is Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia, just across the Potomac, who was either the fellow in blackface or the fellow in the KKK costume. We are not sure which but, apparently, he is one of them, but no action was taken on that.

That was a long time ago. I am okay with acknowledging what took place; looking at the man that he is today. But the hyperventilation around that was very intense, and it was also a narrative that the news media wanted to be true.

I believe one of those two things seems to have a lot of legs.

Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, multiple accusations of sexual assault; no action down there.

The Attorney General Mark Herring confessed that he was in blackface. No action down there. So there is a stalemate in Virginia.

No consequence for these three allegations in Virginia. No consequence so far for Jussie Smollett. No consequence so far for Erica Thomas. We saw all those things.

Madam Speaker, by the way, I will point out that I have not been critical of the statements made by Members of Congress, no matter how much press they have gotten.

The Quad Squad has gotten a lot of press for certain statements. They do have a right to freedom of speech. But with regard to AOC, and ILHAN OMAR, and RASHIDA TLAIB, and AYANNA PRESSLEY, some of those statements that are made are on their face pretty stark.

I think our job here in America is to recognize that people have a right to freedom of speech. It is a constitutional guarantee.

I sat with some people that were, I will say, significantly seasoned in the world and in the business world. These folks were out of Europe. And I said to them: You need constitutional protection for freedom of speech in the same way, along the lines that we have in America, because we are protected. We can say what we want to say; freedom of speech, religion, the press, and to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievance. That is America.

The ability to express our thoughts and our ideas and freely exchange them with others generates other ideas. Bad ideas drift by the wayside after they are examined in open public dialogue; and good ideas get legs, as you saw tonight with Congressman YOHO lifting his immigration bill up before everyone for an opportunity to debate.

Good ideas sustain themselves. Bad ideas, if you have a rational public that believes in the age of reason—and we need to be sustaining this age of reason—then the world gets to be a better place.

If we suppress thoughts and we suppress dialogue, if we tell people they don't have freedom of speech, if we punish them for exercising their constitutional right to freedom of speech, it diminishes all of us because then we don't have competing ideas. We only have the repetition of politically correct utterances; and that is not going to sustain the greatest nation the world has ever seen. It was built on these freedoms.

America was built on freedom of speech, religion, and the press, the Second Amendment, the right to keep and bear arms, the property rights that are in the Fifth Amendment, no double jeopardy, you face a jury of your peers. And the rights that are not enumerated in the Constitution devolve to the people or the States respectively.

We are built on free enterprise, capitalism, and Judeo-Christian values. We are descended from the full flow of Western civilization that comes here to America; and today we are the flagship of Western civilization.

Now I have named all of this, but I want to state, again, AOC, ILHAN OMAR, RASHIDA TLAIB, AYANNA PRESSLEY, and every other Member of this United States Congress, and everyone in the United States of America has a God-given right to freedom of speech, and thought, and expression, and religion, and assembly, and press. And if we don't protect those rights, America devolves towards the Third World, not ascending onward and upward into the shining city that was so well and eloquently envisioned by Ronald Reagan.

So if we disagree with what someone says, we can state our opposition and our reasons why; and we need to have respectful disagreement here in this Congress.

The debates that have taken place here over the years have shaped the fabric of America. We often say this is the greatest debate body in the world here. I am not as convinced of that today, or this year, as I was up to this point.

When I see that there was a false allegation made against me, a misquote in *The New York Times*, intentional or not, has turned into something that is supposedly a fact; and then, the things that are clearly not facts are repeated over and over again by a media that wants their narrative to be true.

So there was a resolution that came to the floor here in the House that was—I am named in the first paragraph. This is H. Res. 41, on January 15 of 2019, and it starts out this way: “Whereas, on January 10, 2019, Representative STEVE KING was quoted as asking, ‘White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization—how did that language become offensive?’”

That is part of the quote, not all of it. It is not even quoted in the context that the article quoted it in. But that is actually a true statement that is a quote that was published in *The New York Times*, and that is what it says, Whereas, STEVE KING was quoted as saying this.

And then there are a whole series of whereases here that reject the odious ideology that White supremacy and White nationalism—there are a whole lot of other odious ideologies, and some of them are openly defended here on the floor of this House of Representatives, not either one of those, not by me, and not by anybody.

I agreed with those whereases all the way down. In fact, the rejection that I had put into this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the previous Friday was more clear and more stark, and it rejected those odious ideologies more distinctly and more effectively than the resolution that was introduced by Mr. CLYBURN.

All those whereases I agree with. I got down to the resolve of this resolution. It says: “Resolved, that the House of Representatives once again rejects white nationalism and white supremacy as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States.”

Agreed again.

So, Madam Speaker, I am making this point that the world seems to forget that I supported this resolution, because it was true. All it said about me was that *The New York Times*—that I had been quoted as saying that. That is true. *The New York Times* quoted me as saying that. I don't have any reason to disagree with this. I voted for it, and I asked all of the Members to vote for it for a number of reasons; but one of them was, I didn't want to see this Congress split over something like this.

Why are we policing something of this nature?

Why does Congress think that we should police the speech of Members on

the floor here, especially if it doesn't violate the rules, or outside these Chambers?

Never in the history of the United States House of Representatives has a Member been removed from committees because of even an accurate quote by the press outside these walls. It didn't take place in this building or on the Capitol grounds in any way whatsoever.

Never has even an accurate quote been used to sanction a Member of Congress.

So we have, instead, a misquote that was in a 56-minute telephone interview with *The New York Times* reporter who asserted—and our Minority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY said that he talked to him on the phone—he said he could type as fast as anybody can talk and he can punctuate accurately. So I am wondering why he stopped me a couple of times in that 56-minute interview and asked me to repeat a sentence so that he could get it right.

In fact, I am going to guess that there isn't anybody that can take a conventional typewriter and type accurately and punctuate accurately at the speed that I talk in a normal conversation.

In fact, the wonderful Christy over here, and her magic keyboard, can barely keep up at about 250 words a minute when I am rolling along. And I feel a little sorry for her, but I like her a lot.

And so that is my point: There is no reporter that is even capable of doing that. But he has convinced KEVIN MCCARTHY that he is the “magic finger man” and he couldn't possibly make a mistake; not with a hyphen; not with comma; not with a voice inflection.

Oh, by the way, this is going to be a little harder now, Christy, because Zig Ziglar used to use this to describe how things can be misconstrued. And I am saying that this quote was more than misconstrued. It just happened to fit the narrative that *The New York Times* and a number of other liberal organizations wanted.

But Zig Ziglar would put it out this way: There are four different ways, and it is going to be printed all the same way in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and then I am going to explain what is different.

But, Madam Speaker, for those that are, say, watching on C-SPAN, to understand how language works, it works like this: He would say, I never said she stole the money, with the emphasis on the word “she”. That says one thing: I never said she stole the money.

Another way to say the same words are: I never said she stole the money, with the emphasis on the word “stole”.

Another one is, I never said she stole the money, with the emphasis on the word “I”.

And the last one is: I never said she stole the money, with the emphasis on the word “money”. There are four different meanings that come out of exactly the same words.

And KEVIN MCCARTHY, and a handful of others, believe that somehow the punctuation that was in *The New York Times*, and the hyperventilation that emerged on the punctuation of *The New York Times*, is justifiable to attempt to disenfranchise 755,000 Iowans. And he doesn't remember or acknowledge that more people voted for me in the last election than they did KEVIN MCCARTHY, or the chair of the Republican Conference.

And the legitimacy that was conferred upon me was conferred after any other allegation other than this misquote that happens to be of *The New York Times*.

Now, I would add, handling language in this way is this way; that the dialogue that went on in that 56-minute interview was a dialogue that the reporter refuses to even speculate as to what question it was that he might have asked me.

I'm pretty sure that he didn't have that typed out in his notes either, so he doesn't know the question.

But I am going to submit that it was about the discussion that had to do with the weaponization of language; the weaponization of language that has been calculated by the left.

And I happen to know that there was a meeting in the Mandarin Hotel here in Washington, D.C. that commenced on November 12, 2016; and that was going to be a meeting on how to exploit the Hillary presidency if she was going to be President-elect on that day, when that 3-day conference began.

But as it turned out, it was President-elect Donald Trump that they had to react to and figure out how they were going to take the highest levels of the Democratic Party that emerged in the Mandarin Hotel, including George Soros, whose picture was on the front of the article written by Politico on that day.

Out of that came a number of weaponization strategies; one of them was the resistance movement. And you saw demonstrations in the streets all over America that commenced shortly after that, all the way through the inauguration, and for a month or two after that, all these demonstrations.

The idea was, don't let Donald Trump govern. If you weren't successful in beating him in the election; if—let's just say, Peter Strzok and Lisa Page and those who said they weren't going to ever let it happen, and the rest of that cabal, they fell short in the election, but they continued to try to deny Donald Trump the opportunity to rule and to function as the President of the United States.

Madam Speaker, that topic has been before us intensively as recently as yesterday.

And so, the strategy that came out of the Mandarin Hotel in that conference that began with the Democratic Party at the highest levels there, including George Soros and the DNC, on Sunday, the 12th of November—it happened to be Charles Manson's birthday, I happen

to know. I don't know why I know that—but it was about the weaponization of terms.

Our discussion in that interview with *The New York Times* was about the weaponization of terms. And I have spoken of the weaponization of terms before that in an interview with *The Christian Science Monitor*, and there, it is a clear quote that rolls along that says: It is about weaponizing these terms.

Madam Speaker, I use the terms—if I can find it here, *The Christian Science Monitor* article. It was using the terms Western civilization or Western culture as that—why is it that they are trying to turn that into a pejorative term? And that interview was clearly done in *The Christian Science Monitor*, and it is clear that that would be the topic I was talking about; not advocacy for odious ideologies, but instead wondering why it would be that the left would be seeking to weaponize the very meritorious term, Western civilization. That is clearly the case.

And I have been attacked for defending Western civilization, but I have never defended White nationalism or White supremacy.

□ 2030

I would point out on this chart, Madam Speaker, when was it used? I mean, when were these terms used within our dialogue? Here is one. This is a quote from me.

We went through LexisNexis and went on back and asked from the year 2000 up until the end of 2018 how many times was I quoted as ever using the term "white nationals" or "white supremacy?" You can see down here in the red and in the green, it goes clear on out to the end of 2018—never. Not one time was I quoted as using either one of those terms that identify the odious ideologies in all the LexisNexis searches that were there.

It makes it implausible that, unless those terms were fed to me by *The New York Times*, it is very unlikely that they would have ever been uttered in that interview. But I said I am defending Western civilization. I have been consistent and clear on that, Madam Speaker.

And so this chart, the blue line shows the utilization of "Western civilization," the times that I have been quoted using the term "Western civilization." Instead of zero times being quoted as using "white nationalism" or "white supremacy," "Western civilization" totals, that number shows on here, but here is the utilization of it, and it totals 276 times.

So to keep it simple, I boiled it down to the text here. I was quoted as saying "Western civilization" in *The New York Times*—number of times quoted as saying "Western civilization," 276 times since the year 2000 the press has quoted me as using that term. I am fine with that. I proudly defend Western civilization, consistently. But when did I ever say "white nationalism" or

"white supremacy" or any derivative thereof? Zero times, zero.

So it is pretty clear that when *The New York Times* plugs that in, I was likely responding to the utilization of those terms in a question if those words were even said at all.

And here is another little chart. The leader made a point that, well, you know, that I had defined "white nationalism," and I had defined it in an earlier interview by saying that it is a derogatory term and it implies racism, but it might have meant something different, I said, 1, 2, or 3 years ago.

This is an October 20 interview with Dave Price on WHO.

So I went back and looked, how often was the term "white nationalism" used historically, going back to the year 2000 on LexisNexis? And you can see this line staying down here near zero, all these years from 2000 all the way up to 2015.

You would say in today's vernacular, virtually zero times—virtually no times, excuse me—not zero, but virtually no times was the term "white nationalism" even used in our dialogue until you get to 2016 where it jumps up.

These numbers really are 1 to 200 times a year throughout all the publications, all the writers, all the things that show up on LexisNexis that searches everything in print, including the blogs all the way back.

So this is virtually none, 1 to 200 times a year by everybody. And this isn't identified to my utilization.

Then, in 2016, it jumps from virtually none up to 10,000 times a year. And then when you go to 2017, it jumps all the way up to 30,000 times. And in 2018, it is still up there at 20,000 times.

So 10, 30, 20,000 times used, virtually unused before. And I explained and asserted that they are weaponizing that term, and they are injecting it into the political dialogue and using it as a pejorative term against anybody they can stick this label on.

And that is exactly what was going on, and that is exactly what I defined in that interview that was so objected to by the minority leader of the House of Representatives. I was far more right than I thought.

It was a general understanding I had. Now when I go back and look at the facts, I just nailed it cold as to what is going on.

The left is weaponizing terms. I was explaining that. I explained it accurately, more accurately than I thought I had, and what is my reward for being so precise? And my reward for being so accurate, my reward for defending Western civilization is a pejorative decision that is unprecedented in the history of the United States Congress to stifle my freedom of speech and to limit, to the extent they could, my ability to be reelected going into the future.

That is the kind of thing we can't have in this Congress is for someone to be sitting in leadership that thinks that they have the authority to determine who is not going to represent people outside of their own district. That

is destructive to our constitutional Republic.

The voice of we the people elects the Representatives, and when they do so, they have a right to the full-throated representation, and that has been denied so far this year because of the arbitrary and capricious and false conclusion that has been drawn by KEVIN MCCARTHY. And so that situation needs to be rectified.

Anyone who has read this 6-page fact-check document, not one person has found a hole in it. Not one rational person has found a hole in it.

Those that did read it and considered it said: You make some good points; yes, it makes sense. Well, we maybe have to find a time to fix this, but it is not very convenient right now.

My point is, Madam Speaker, that if you find that somebody has been locked up in jail and the DNA tests prove that they are not guilty, you don't wait until they have a good job. You open up the doors and you give them back their freedom. And in this case, you give back to the people of Iowa the full-throated representation of their senior Member, the dean of the Iowa House of Representatives.

And one of the things my constituents like about me is they always get the straight, unvarnished truth whether they like it or not. And they will come up and they will say: I don't agree with you on everything, but I know that you are telling me the truth; I know you are working hard; and I know that you are objective in this, and we need somebody that we don't have to wonder what they are saying.

I don't ever dance around with words. I tell people what I think and what I know; and I give them the good news when it is there, and I am eager to do so, and I give them the bad news when it is time because they deserve the straightest of answers.

We are straight talkers in the Midwest. We are descended from people that came across the prairie to live free or die out there in the plains, and

we built a pretty good place. It is the best place in the world to live and raise a family.

We have people that are coming back. When they are young, sometimes they will go off and look at the rest of the country or the world, but they come back, especially when it is time for the kids to go to school, and they contribute back to the community, generation on top of generation on top of generation.

That is some of the things that I have worked to establish.

In the time I have been here in Congress, we have taken Iowa into number one, the Fourth Congressional District into number one in the production of renewable fuels and energy. By the time you add together the ethanol, biodiesel, wind and, now, solar, we produce more BTUS of energy than any other congressional district that is a renewable outside of this.

We have gotten transportation routes that have been set up, four-lane Highway 20 is done. We rank in the top first or second or third in corn and soybeans and in pork and in egg production, right at or near the top in all of that. It is a wholesome place.

When I look outside from my place, I see no neighbors, but I never had a bad one. And we have got a crop that looks great this year.

When I see all those little kids boiling up to the front of our church to put their dollar in the basket, those kids are going to grow up in those communities, too, and we are going to have generation after generation that replicates and improves upon the success that we have had.

But we can't do that if we are going to live in a country where there is an arbitrary censorship taking place and no opportunity for me to even defend myself.

Innocent until proven guilty? Well, that is true for a whole bunch of these people that I named, but STEVE KING, instead, is guilty by accusation, guilty by false allegation, even now that I have proven to the House of Represent-

atives that, beyond any reasonable question, this was a misquote. It was something that was ginned up, and it created a political lynch mob.

It is time to cut the rope and get me back in full force of where my constituents deserve, to give them the fullest representation that is there.

I will face any accuser any time, and I will deliver all the facts; and if anybody can find a hole in this 6-page fact-check document or any other statement that I have made, I would be very happy to look anybody in the eye to answer those questions.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate your attention to this matter here this evening, and I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 504.—An Act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on July 24, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 1327. To extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2092, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 26, 2019, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first and second quarters of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kyle DeCant	6/5	6/8	Mexico		1,272.00		431.75				1,703.75
Akash Chougule	6/5	6/8	Mexico		1,272.00		431.75				1,703.75
Committee total					\$2,544.00		863.50				3,407.50

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.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN, July 11, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, July 18, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MARK TAKANO, July 15, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DEREK KILMER, July 16, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DEREK KILMER, July 16, 2019.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2336, the Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1769. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Nadja Y. West, United States Army, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1770. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter

on the approved retirement of General Robert B. Brown, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1771. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Steven L. Kwast, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1772. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on the Notifications of Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select Agents and Toxins for CY 2018, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 8401(k); Pub. L. 107-188, Sec. 212(k); (116 Stat. 656); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1773. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting four (4) notifications of a federal vacancy, a nomination, a designation of acting officer, an action on nomination, or discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1774. A letter from the Senior Advisor, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1775. A letter from the Senior Advisor, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a vacancy and a designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1776. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of the Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting two (2) notifications of an action on nomination and a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1777. A letter from the Director, Office of Textiles and Apparel, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Imports of Certain Worsted Wool Fabric: Implementation of Tariff Rate Quota Established Under Title V of the Trade and Development Act of 2000: Removal of Regulations [Docket No.: 170922927-8683-01] (RIN: 0625-AB13) received July 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 3957. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to increase diversity of ownership in the broadcasting industry, 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 jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CLAY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 3958. A bill to make necessary reforms to improve compliance with loss mitigation requirements by servicers of mortgages for single family housing insured by the FHA and to prevent foreclosures on FHA bor-

rowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 3959. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules requiring the inclusion of new safety equipment in school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. EMMER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. RIGGLEMAN):

H.R. 3960. A bill to allow United States citizens and legal residents to travel between the United States and Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. COOK, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. BEYER, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H.R. 3961. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the energy credit and the credit for residential energy efficient property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

H.R. 3962. A bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Science, Space, and Technology, Financial Services, the Budget, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 3963. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow exclusion of gain or loss on like-kind exchanges of virtual currency; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. BYRNE):

H.R. 3964. A bill to provide a civil remedy for individuals harmed by sanctuary jurisdiction policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 3965. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for enhancements to requirements for public disclosure of hospital price data; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 3966. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce social security payroll taxes and to reduce the reliance of the United States economy on carbon-based energy sources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in

addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and Labor, and Rules, 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. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 3967. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently modify the limitations on the deduction of interest by financial institutions which hold tax-exempt bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 3968. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify that the Secretary of Homeland Security may waive certain environmental requirements to permit U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to search for unlawful border crossing tunnels on private land to prevent the illegal entry of aliens into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CASE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois):

H.R. 3969. A bill to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, Energy and Commerce, Science, Space, and Technology, 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 Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. VISLOSKEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H.R. 3970. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. COOK, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. ROY, and Mr. GRIFFITH):

H.R. 3971. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the inclusion in gross income of Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. COLLINS of

Georgia, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. HAGEDORN, and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 3972. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. LEVIN of California):

H.R. 3973. A bill to establish the Clean School Bus Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 3974. A bill to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 3975. A bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act to modernize verification of contact lens prescriptions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. AMASH, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 3976. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12711 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Aretha Franklin Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Mr. COOK, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. COLE, and Mr. GALLEGOS):

H.R. 3977. A bill to amend the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 to extend the jurisdiction of tribal courts to cover crimes involving sexual violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASTEN of Illinois (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 3978. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to establish a program to incentivize innovation and to enhance the industrial competitiveness of the United States by developing technologies to reduce emissions of nonpower industrial sectors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 Mr. MEUSER (for himself and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 3979. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide that any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation shall include costs relating to servicing the public debt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. BOST, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 3980. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require the impaneling of a new jury if a jury fails to recommend by unanimous vote a sentence for conviction of a crime punishable by death; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 3981. A bill to establish requirements for quality and discard dates that are, at the option of food labelers, included in food packaging, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 3982. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for procedures for establishing discretionary spending limits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. OLSON):

H.R. 3983. A bill to provide for Federal and State agency coordination in the approval of certain authorizations under the Natural Gas Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 3984. A bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself and Mrs. LESKO):

H.R. 3985. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit abortion in cases where a fetal heartbeat is detectable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MCBATH (for herself, Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. KELLER, and Ms. FINKENAUER):

H.R. 3986. A bill to establish a task force to improve child care protections provided through interstate criminal background checks; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 3987. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide relief to nonbanks from certain stress test requirements under such Act; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MCEACHIN, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 3988. A bill to amend the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act to extend the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. DEAN (for herself, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 3989. A bill to establish a Science Advisory Board at the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GUEST:

H.R. 3990. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Operation Stonegarden grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself and Mrs. ROBY):

H.R. 3991. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to clarify and improve the process for subsection (k) applicants to resolve patent infringement claims for biological products (commonly known as the "patent dance"), and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 3992. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits under the work opportunity credit, increase the work opportunity credit for vocational rehabilitation referrals, qualified SSI recipients, and qualified SSDI recipients, expand the disabled access credit, and enhance the deduction for expenditures to remove architectural and transportation barriers to the handicapped and elderly; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 3993. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to require certain disclosures related to amicus activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 3994. A bill to repeal certain provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, title 17 of the United States Code, and certain regulations, to allow for interim carriage of television broadcast signals, and for other purposes; 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 Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 3995. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report to Congress relating to the use of official time by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the instances in which official time may be granted for certain purposes to employees of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 3996. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the use of the design-build construction method for Department of Veterans Affairs construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 3997. A bill to amend the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to prohibit individuals with security clearances from being employed by certain entities; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 3998. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Women's Soccer Team in recognition of their extraordinary contributions and commitment to soccer, women's sports, inclusion, and pay equity; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. BERGMAN (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 3999. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for a credit against tax for placing in service qualified broadband property to expand the level of broadband service in a qualified rural census tract; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 4000. A bill to establish the use of ranked choice voting in elections for Representatives in Congress, to require each State with more than one Representative to establish multi-member Congressional districts, to require States to conduct Congressional redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 4001. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, with respect to bikeshare projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 4002. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for flexible giving accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 4003. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalty enhancements for committing certain offenses while in disguise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. COLE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 4004. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an interagency council on social determinants of health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 4005. A bill to require the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to submit a report on the Taxpayer Identification Number Perfection Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA,

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 4006. A bill to require regulation of wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of crude oil, natural gas, or geothermal energy under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 4007. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study with respect to stormwater runoff from oil and gas operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 4008. A bill to prohibit the use of biometric recognition technology in certain federally assisted dwelling units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BUCK, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. ZELDIN):

H.R. 4009. A bill to provide for the consideration of a definition of anti-Semitism for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself and Mr. PHILLIPS):

H.R. 4010. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish insulin assistance programs, 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 jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 4011. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require lead remediation for qualified opportunity zone property originally constructed before January 1, 1978; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

H.R. 4012. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and title 38, United States Code, to conduct risk analyses regarding certain educational institutions receiving payments under the Department of Education heightened cash monitoring payment method, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 4013. A bill to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the effect of including telehealth services in Medicare health care delivery reform models; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WELCH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 4014. A bill to repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing in the Safe Drinking Water Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 4015. A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other statutes to clarify appropriate liability standards for Federal antidiscrimination claims; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, the Judiciary, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. SPANBERGER):

H.R. 4016. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to establish a pilot program for providing portable benefits to eligible workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 4017. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish Lifelong Learning and Training Account programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 4018. A bill to provide that the amount of time that an elderly offender must serve before being eligible for placement in home detention is to be reduced by the amount of good time credits earned by the prisoner, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. STEWART, and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 4019. A bill to protect and educate children about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Ms. MENG, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 4020. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the deployment of law enforcement personnel at airport screening locations at very large airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 4021. A bill to prohibit a Federal agency from using a facial recognition technology without a Federal court order, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 4022. A bill to abolish the death penalty under Federal law; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. FERGUSON:

H.R. 4023. A bill to reform the inspection process of housing assisted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. FINKENAUER:

H.R. 4024. A bill to improve the collection and distribution of broadband availability data; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Ms. WILD):

H.R. 4025. A bill to establish the Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 4026. A bill to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to promote timely exploration for geothermal resources under geothermal leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 4027. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (commonly referred to as the Communications Decency Act) to stop censorship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. BIGGS):

H.R. 4028. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a pilot program for commercial recreation concessions on certain land managed by the Bureau of Land Management; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HECK (for himself, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 4029. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to enable Indian Tribes and tribally designated housing entities to apply for, receive, and administer grants and subgrants under the Continuum

of Care Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 4030. A bill to require asylum officers to conduct credible fear screenings before admitting aliens seeking asylum into the United States, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an alternative to detention pilot program, and to clarify that aliens transiting through third countries on the way to the United States are ineligible for asylum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Ms.

KAPTUR, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RYAN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. KATKO, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. KIND, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4031. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 4032. A bill to require the Corps of Engineers to carry out an assessment of the resiliency of the Great Lakes coastline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 4033. A bill to provide supplemental appropriations for safe and secure water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. HECK):

H.R. 4034. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 602 Pacific Avenue in Bremerton, Washington, as the "John Henry Turpin Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio):

H.R. 4035. A bill to prohibit the use of premiums paid to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation as an offset for other Federal spending; to the Committee on Rules, and in

addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 4036. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a better defined recruitment and retention incentive program for volunteer emergency service workers; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 4037. A bill to promote uniformity and reciprocity among States that license insurance claims adjusters and to facilitate prompt and efficient adjusting of insurance claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 4038. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain post graduation scholarship grants from gross income in the same manner as qualified scholarships to promote economic growth; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEVIN of California (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 4039. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a program to fund water infrastructure projects near the United States-Mexico border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEWIS (for himself, Mr. CROW, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. MCBATH, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 4040. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the temporary exception to the application of the site neutral IPPS payment rate to discharges from certain spinal cord specialty hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 4041. A bill to promote the domestic development and deployment of clean energy technologies required for the 21st century; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 4042. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community clinic in New City, New York, as the "Jerry Donnellan VA Community Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BOST, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SHIMKUS):

H.R. 4043. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect employees in the

building and construction industry who are participants in multiemployer plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MALINOWSKI (for himself, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 4044. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 4045. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit for expenditures to provide access to disabled individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and Labor, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 4046. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to provide for certain changes to the semiannual report of the Attorney General to Congress regarding actions taken under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 4047. A bill to require certain Federal financial regulators to carry out an independent study of their regulated entities' processes for allowing third parties to access consumer-authorized financial data; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 4048. A bill to limit the use, recording, or transmission of any speech or sound captured by a smart speaker, or any video or image captured by a video doorbell, and to prohibit, as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, such use, recording, or transmission without the express consent of the consumer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 4049. A bill to provide that the head of a Federal agency may not prohibit State or local uniformed law enforcement officers from wearing or using body cameras on joint operations with Federal law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 4050. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection

Agency to award grants for projects that are consistent with zero-waste practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 4051. A bill to create a Climate Action Rebate Fund in order to efficiently reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide a monthly rebate to the American people, encourage innovation of clean energy technologies and create new economic opportunities, ensure the resiliency of our infrastructure, assist with the transition to a clean energy economy, and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Natural Resources, Veterans' Affairs, Education and Labor, Science, Space, and Technology, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. AMASH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLAY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 4052. A bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 4053. A bill to amend chapters 95 and 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential election campaigns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and 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. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 4054. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the sponsors of certain general public political advertisements to include in the advertisements information on the persons who provided the funding for such advertisements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 4055. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act to clarify the treatment of coordinated expenditures as contributions made to candidates under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 4056. A bill to provide certain coverage of audiologist services under the Medicare program, 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 jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 4057. A bill to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while

also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from timber sales conducted on National Forest System land, to reduce payments under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to reflect such counties' receipt of timber sale revenues, to strengthen stewardship end result contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 4058. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on greenhouse gas emissions, accordingly reduce tax rates on payroll, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. RUIZ:

H.R. 4059. A bill to take certain lands in California into trust for the benefit of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. COOK, and Mr. GOMEZ):

H.R. 4060. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations to provide for temporary flight restrictions in the vicinity of outdoor music festivals; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 4061. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a comprehensive, nationwide, energy-related industries jobs program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 4062. A bill to provide for the implementation of a system of licensing for purchasers of certain firearms and for a record of sale system for those firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 4063. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certified adult day services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. NORTON, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 4064. A bill to require all newly constructed, federally assisted, single-family houses and town houses to meet minimum standards of visitability for persons with disabilities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. NORTON,

Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COX of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. PORTER, and Mrs. TORRES of California);

H.R. 4065. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a pilot program for serving meals in community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself and Mr. FLORES):

H.R. 4066. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide that the President's annual budget submission to Congress list the current fiscal year spending level for each proposed program and a separate amount for any proposed spending increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 4067. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to direct the Office of Community Affairs to identify causes leading to, and solutions for, underbanked, unbanked, and underserved consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. PLASKETT):

H.R. 4068. A bill to require the United States Commission on Civil Rights to establish advisory committees for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 4069. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to harmonize the definition of employee with the common law; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 4070. A bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Mr. TIMMONS (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 4071. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide that concurrent resolutions on the budget include the recommended ratio of the public debt to the estimated gross domestic product for each fiscal year covered by the resolution; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MOORE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. HAALAND):

H.R. 4072. A bill to deem officers and employees of the United States Government excepted from furlough during a Government shutdown in fiscal year 2020 to be eligible for unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. BACON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 4073. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide Federal Pell Grants on behalf of an incarcerated individual; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 4074. A bill to create a safe harbor for insurers engaging in the business of insurance in connection with a cannabis-related business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 4075. A bill to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. BUDD):

H.R. 4076. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to implement rules simplifying the quarterly financial reporting regime; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BACON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. WILD, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. ZELDIN):

H.R. 4077. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 4078. A bill to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 4079. A bill to simplify and improve the Federal student loan program through income-contingent repayment to provide stronger protections for borrowers, encourage responsible borrowing, and save money for taxpayers; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. MORELLE:

H. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued honoring Martha Matilda Harper, and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. MARSHALL):

H. Res. 522. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the production of oil and natural gas is es-

sential to the economy and well-being of the United States, and that addressing energy needs requires cooperation instead of coercion; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H. Res. 523. A resolution expressing support for the designation of National Public Safety Aviation Day; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CLAY:

H. Res. 524. A resolution calling on the United Arab Emirates to immediately end any form of human rights violations against political prisoners and prisoners of free speech, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H. Res. 525. A resolution calling for the designation of Antifa as a domestic terrorist organization; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H. Res. 526. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to implement the first set of recommendations adopted by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, 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. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HIMES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. PETERS):

H. Res. 527. A resolution recognizing the goal of United States foreign policy should be to promote human rights and equal rights for all; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H. Res. 528. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2019 as Campus Fire Safety Month; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. COX of California, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H. Res. 529. A resolution honoring the life of Petty Officer Raul Guerra of Montebello, California, who perished on October 8, 1967, during military operations off northern Vietnam, and the work of the Bring Raul Home Committee to have Petty Officer Raul Guerra's remains laid to rest in California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers

granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 3957.

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 Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 3958.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 and Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 3959.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 3960.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 3961.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 3962.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, 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. BUDD:

H.R. 3963.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 ("To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes"); Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 ("To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures"); and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 ("To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.").

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 3964.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 4 of the Constitution

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 3965.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 3966.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1:

"The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States;"

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 3967.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 3968.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 3969.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 3970.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 3971.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for the Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act is found in Article I, Section 8, which gives Congress the power to "lay and collect" taxes.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 3972.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution, include the power granted under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 and the power granted to each House of Congress under Article I, Section 5, Clause 2

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 3973.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 3974.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 3975.

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 . . .";

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;" and

Article I, Section 8, 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 Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 3976.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7:

To establish post offices and post roads

By Ms. HAALAND:

H.R. 3977.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CASTEN of Illinois:

H.R. 3978.

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. MEUSER:

H.R. 3979.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. KELLER:

H.R. 3980.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause "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 Office thereof."

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 3981.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 3982.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 3983.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 3984.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 3985.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has authority to extend protection to unborn children with a detectable heartbeat under the Constitution's grants of powers to Congress under the Equal Protection, Due Process, and Enforcement Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment

By Mrs. MCBATH:

H.R. 3986.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) of the U.S. Constitution: "Congress shall have power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 3987.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 3988.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. DEAN:

H.R. 3989.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUEST:

H.R. 3990.

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. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 3991.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 3992.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 3993.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 3994.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 3995.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 3996.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 3997.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 3998.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 3999.

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. BEYER:

H.R. 4000.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments.

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By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4001.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause III

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 4002.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 4003.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV,

Section 3, Clause 2. The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 4004.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 4005.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

“The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.”

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4006.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4007.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 4008.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 4009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 4010.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 4011.

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. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 4012.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 4013.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 4014.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4015.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 4016.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 4017.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 4018.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 4019.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 4020.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1;
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1;
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 4021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1;
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1;
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 4022.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One of the United States Constitution, section 8, 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. FERGUSON:

H.R. 4023.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I: 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 the Constitution in this Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. FINKENAUER:

H.R. 4024.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power . . . to Regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 4025.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 4026.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 4027.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 “To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

Article 1 Section 8: “To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.”

In *Planned Parenthood v Casey* (1992), Justice Kennedy stated, in an opinion co-authored by Justices Sandra Day O’Connor and

David Souter, that “At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence.” Justice Kennedy continued in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015): “The Constitution promises liberty to all within its reach, a liberty that includes certain specific rights that allow persons, within a lawful realm, to define and express their identity.”

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 4028.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause). Under this clause, Congress has [[Page H1463]] the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. By virtue of this enumerated power, Congress has governing authority over the lands, territories, or other property of the United States—and with this authority Congress is vested with the power to all owners in fee, the ability to sell, lease, dispose, exchange, convey, or simply preserve land. The Supreme Court has described this enumerated grant as one “without limitation” *Kleppe v New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529, 542–543 (1976) (“And while the furthest reaches of the power granted by the Property Clause have not been definitely resolved, we have repeatedly observed that the power over the public land thus entrusted to Congress is without limitation.”) Historically, the federal government transferred ownership of federal property to either private ownership or the states in order to pay off large Revolutionary War debts and to assist with the development of infrastructure.

By Mr. HECK:

H.R. 4029.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 4030.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 4031.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 4032.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4033.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4034.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7, “The Congress shall have Power to . . . establish Post Offices and Post Roads . . .”

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4035.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Pow-

ers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article 1, Section 5, Clause 2: Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 4036.

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 or Officer thereof.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee:

H.R. 4037.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional Authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate in commerce in and among the states, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 4038.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE I

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. LEVIN of California:

H.R. 4039.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 4040.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 4041.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 4042.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4043.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, impost, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. MALINOWSKI:

H.R. 4044.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. McEACHIN:

H.R. 4045.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 4046.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof”.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 4047.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18)

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 4048.

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 Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4049.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 4050.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article. 1. Section 1.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 4051.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 4052.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 4053.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 4, and Article II, section 1, of the Constitution authorize Congress to regulate federal elections.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 4054.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, which states: “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Place of Chusing Senators.”

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 4055.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, which states: “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Place of Chusing Senators.”

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 4056.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 4057.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 4058.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 4059.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 4060.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 4061.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 4062.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SANCHEZ:

H.R. 4063.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 4064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 4065.

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 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 4066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section I; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Necessary and Proper Clause

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 4067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 4068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 4069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 4070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. TIMMONS:

H.R. 4071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7, which provides that, "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 4072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary an Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 4073.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause XVIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 4074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 4075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 4076.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 4077.

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 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 4078.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution such power as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 4079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 33: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 94: Mr. CASE and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 300: Mr. STAUBER and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 336: Mr. ARRINGTON and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H.R. 344: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 366: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 435: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. BERA, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 490: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 510: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H.R. 535: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 553: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 555: Mr. YOUNG and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 561: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BOST, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 566: Mr. TONKO and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 585: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SMITH of Washington,

Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 587: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. COX of California, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 592: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 637: Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 647: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 714: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 724: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 728: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 788: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 838: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 873: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 886: Mr. STEUBE and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 911: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 935: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 943: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 948: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 961: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 968: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1002: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1109: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 1111: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1133: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 1139: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 1153: Mr. PETERS and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 1154: Ms. STEVENS and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1175: Mr. CLINE, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. SIRES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. FRANKEL, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1220: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1224: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1225: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 1228: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1230: Ms. HAALAND and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1257: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 1266: Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 1275: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1297: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1309: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1321: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1346: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1370: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 1379: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1396: Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 1398: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. YOUNG.

H.R. 1406: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 1434: Mr. DUNN, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 1450: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1530: Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. COLE, and Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee.

H.R. 1540: Mr. RUSH.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 1551: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 1570: Mr. TIMMONS and Mr. BUCK.
H.R. 1597: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1605: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1607: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1671: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1692: Mr. DOGGETT and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1695: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1709: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CORREA, and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 1735: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1748: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 1754: Mr. BERA and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1765: Mr. CLYBURN.
H.R. 1767: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 1769: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1771: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 1773: Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 1814: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 1823: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1840: Mr. VELA.
H.R. 1854: Mr. CLINE and Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 1869: Ms. WEXTON and Mr. REED.
H.R. 1878: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 1903: Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1923: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1925: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1934: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1948: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. KELLER, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DEAN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 1975: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1980: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. BERGMAN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. COOK, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 1996: Mr. WALKER.
H.R. 2010: Mr. BOST and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2013: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2051: Mr. COX of California and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2056: Ms. GABBARD and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 2088: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 2096: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2148: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2150: Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. MILLER, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. CHENEY, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 2156: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2164: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2180: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2207: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 2214: Ms. HOULAHAN and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 2218: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2222: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 2227: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2236: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2250: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2256: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. MCEACHIN.
H.R. 2260: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 2271: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 2275: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2279: Mr. BUDD.
H.R. 2293: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2314: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2339: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2349: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 2353: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 2381: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 2382: Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2387: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 2398: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2405: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 2415: Mr. JEFFRIES and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 2420: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 2426: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DELGADO, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
H.R. 2441: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 2445: Mrs. AXNE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2466: Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 2468: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 2474: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2521: Mr. KILMER, Mr. COLE, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2528: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.
H.R. 2569: Mrs. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2571: Mr. WRIGHT.
H.R. 2577: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 2602: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 2632: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2650: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. WILD, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 2653: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2682: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 2693: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2711: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2720: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2764: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2775: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 2781: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2788: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2795: Mr. LUJÁN.
H.R. 2815: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. CALVERT, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2828: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2854: Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 2865: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2878: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 2912: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 2927: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 2975: Mr. RUIZ and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2985: Mr. MITCHELL and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 2988: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3016: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 3018: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 3038: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 3062: Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 3077: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 3106: Mr. FOSTER and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3107: Ms. NORTON, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HOLDING, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DUNN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. COX of California, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3113: Mr. TONKO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COLE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. MOORE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. HILL of California, and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 3115: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 3119: Mrs. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 3125: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 3190: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 3218: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 3219: Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 3246: Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 3254: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3275: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 3318: Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 3350: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3356: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3374: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3378: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3391: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 3413: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 3447: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3450: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 3461: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3463: Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. WILD, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 3465: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3473: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 3497: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3502: Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3515: Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 3530: Mr. YOHO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. GIANFORTE.
H.R. 3555: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3561: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. DEAN, Mr. BARR, and Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 3580: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 3594: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 3598: Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. O'HALLERAN.
H.R. 3609: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 3612: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 3654: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 3665: Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. SHALALA.
H.R. 3670: Ms. STEFANIK and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 3671: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 3681: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 3714: Ms. SHALALA and Mr. CRIST.
H.R. 3742: Mr. STANTON, Mr. KIND, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3744: Mr. BRINDISI.
H.R. 3748: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3749: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3766: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 3797: Mr. GAETZ and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 3798: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3799: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3801: Mr. CISNEROS and Mr. VELA.
H.R. 3820: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H.R. 3828: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 3829: Ms. HILL of California and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3833: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3845: Mrs. AXNE.

- H.R. 3851: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 3866: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 3867: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 3874: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 3881: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3896: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 3909: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3911: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3912: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3917: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 3918: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3922: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3930: Mr. BANKS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, and Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 3934: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 3942: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. WELCH.
- H.J. Res. 35: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 25: Mr. RASKIN.
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. MORELLE.
H. Res. 23: Mr. PHILLIPS and Ms. WEXTON.
H. Res. 49: Mrs. AXNE.
H. Res. 54: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H. Res. 107: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H. Res. 189: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. PENCE, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. SPEIER.
H. Res. 230: Mr. DEUTCH.
H. Res. 255: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H. Res. 259: Mr. COSTA.
H. Res. 277: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H. Res. 310: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H. Res. 326: Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. PALLONE.
H. Res. 332: Mr. PETERS.
H. Res. 334: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H. Res. 419: Mr. CASE.
- H. Res. 452: Mr. SIRES.
H. Res. 480: Mr. SERRANO.
H. Res. 482: Mr. LONG.
H. Res. 488: Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. MCEACHIN.
H. Res. 493: Mr. LAMBORN.
H. Res. 495: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H. Res. 496: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H. Res. 499: Mrs. TORRES of California.
H. Res. 501: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. RASKIN.
H. Res. 502: Mr. COHEN.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019

No. 126

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the author and finisher of our faith, we rejoice in the privileges You have strewn on our path. Give us the courage to use our opportunities to serve You and country. May our lawmakers strive to stand for right though the heavens fall. Remind them that evil prospers when good people do nothing. May our Senators also use the gift of intercessory prayer to unlock Your storehouse of blessings so desperately needed in our Nation and world. In hours of hardship, provide them with Your peace. Lord, give our legislators the wisdom that enables them to hasten the coming of Your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BUDGET AGREEMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, today we expect the House of Representatives will pass the 2-year government funding agreement the Trump administration and Speaker PELOSI announced earlier this week. I stand with the President, who has publicly expressed his support for the agreement on several occasions. I am grateful to the members of his administration who led the negotiations: Secretary Mnuchin, Acting Chief of Staff Mulvaney, and Acting OMB Director Vought.

Considering the circumstances of divided government, this is a good deal. After the House approves it today with bipartisan support, I expect the Senate to do the same next week. Here is why it is a good deal: It achieves the No. 1 goal on the Republican side of the aisle of providing for the common defense and continuing our progress in rebuilding the Armed Forces of the United States and modernizing them so they can continue to keep Americans safe and project power for years to come. This has been a top shared priority for this Republican Senate and this Republican White House for 2½ years.

Pentagon leaders need stable, reliable, and sufficient resources. The greatest military on Earth should not drift in uncertainty. Our servicemem-

bers deserve better than a string of funding crises and continuing resolutions. Our commanders need predictable resources and sufficient resources to lay the foundations for the future of our national defense.

Servicemembers deserve to deploy armed with state-of-the-art training and cutting-edge equipment; their families deserve the best support services the Nation can offer; and the Nation as a whole deserves the global presence that is up to snuff and competitive with the leaps forward in which our adversaries have invested heavily.

That is why we have delivered historic increases in resources for modernization and DOD reforms—to ensure the U.S. military is strong and agile enough to confront a growing number of threats to America and our interests. That is why just a few months ago we authorized the largest year-on-year increase in defense funding in more than a decade. This funding agreement is the next step forward in that process.

Every Member of this body knows the threats we face are serious and getting more serious: the resurgence of great power competition with nations like Russia and China; the destabilization of influence of state-sponsored terror and regional aggression from bad actors such as Iran; and the testing of historic alliances.

Amidst the growing international chaos, the preeminent obligation of the U.S. government is to provide for the common defense. This agreement prioritizes that commitment to the safety and the security of the American people.

A nation that understands these threats and takes them seriously makes serious investments in the readiness of its own defenses today and the modernization that will preserve their strength into the future.

For years, we have seen China extend its strategic reach, testing the waters of the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S5073

We have watched its Communist leadership nearly double military spending in the last decade and push the boundaries in everything from offshore territorial claims to 5G technology.

America's edge is in jeopardy. Our allies in the Pacific are uneasy. The administration's budget agreement with the Speaker will allow America to ensure that our own foot stays on the gas pedal as well.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, we are confronted daily with escalating threats to our allies and interests. State-sponsored terror and proxy actions are becoming bolder. Gray zone activity in places like the Straits of Hormuz is raising the economic and geopolitical stakes of Iran's meddling.

From Syria to Crimea, Russia continues to stretch its legs. Not since the height of the Soviet Union have we seen Moscow this focused on extending influence beyond its borders. All over the world, historic alliances and partnerships like NATO need to be strengthened and renewed for this new landscape.

Fortunately, in the coming days, we will have the opportunity to address all these areas—Europe, the Middle East, the Indo-Pacific, and beyond. That opportunity is this bipartisan spending agreement. So I am grateful to the administration for ensuring that such robust funding for our national security is included in this package. It will make us safer worldwide and make needed investments in our own facilities right here at home, like Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, and the Blue Grass Army Depo, which Kentucky is proud to host.

What is more, I commend the President's team for firmly holding the line on the laundry list of leftwing policy riders that some House Democrats had sought to push throughout their partisan appropriations process over there on the other side.

We are talking about far-left wish list items, things like reversing the Trump administration's decision and getting title X taxpayer dollars flowing back into the pocket of Planned Parenthood, weakening the conscience rights of healthcare professionals, removing protections for the Second Amendment, and efforts that would have weakened ICE and defunded the President's efforts to secure our border.

These are just some of the policy riders the far left had hoped to smuggle into the appropriations process—perhaps using the full faith and credit of the United States as leverage, but the administration froze all of them out. They are not in this deal. They shepherded an agreement that delivers on our most basic responsibility to the American people. They set the stage to provide for the common defense. Today it is the House's turn to follow through, and then, in the near future, it will be ours.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2258

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for a second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2258) to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we all know that yesterday former Special Counsel Mueller testified before two House committees. I believe it was crucial for the American people to hear straight from Robert Mueller's mouth that the President was not—underline “not”—exonerated by his report, despite what the President claims. It is utterly amazing. Mueller says something, and the President says the exact opposite to the media. We have never had a President who has lied so often. He knows what Mueller said, but he thinks he can dupe people when he says it, and I hope it is not true.

It is important for the American people to hear straight from Robert Mueller's mouth that the President is not telling the truth when he claims that Mueller found no obstruction. Mueller did not. Anyone who watched the hearing saw it. It was as plain as could be, but that is not the subject of my remarks today.

My remarks are about election security. Above all, it was important for all of us to hear straight from Robert Mueller's mouth that the threat from Russia and other foreign adversaries seeking to meddle in our elections was very real and still very much ongoing.

When asked about Russian interference in our democracy, Mr. Mueller responded:

It wasn't a single attempt. They're doing it as we sit here. And they expect to do it during the next campaign.

Leader MCCONNELL, let me read you those sentences, if you care about America. Mueller said about Russian interference:

It wasn't a single attempt. They're doing it as we sit here. And they expect to do it during the next campaign.

He went on to say that many more countries were developing capabilities similar to what Russia has. He reminded members of the House Intelligence Committee that Russian fake images reached nearly 126 million people on Facebook alone.

As if it even needed to be spelled out, Mr. Mueller added: “Much more needs to be done in order to protect against these intrusions, not just by the Russians but by others as well.”

Mueller's testimony was a clarion call for election security. Mueller's testimony should be a wake-up call to every American—Democrat, Republican, liberal, and conservative—that the integrity of our elections is at stake and to be manipulated by a foreign power.

This is all about the future of this country. If we lose faith in our electoral process, democracy begins to walk away from us, and we will be a different country than the glorious country we have been since 1789. Yet our Republican colleagues put their heads in the sand.

Donald Trump, as usual, with his enormous self-ego, doesn't want to admit the Russians interfered—even though he encouraged it publicly—because he feels it will cast some illegitimacy on his election. The election is over. He is President. I wish he weren't. But that is not the issue here.

The issue is the future of our democracy. And our Republican colleagues, who, once again, either are afraid of President Trump or, even worse, seeking advantage from Russian interference, are keeping their heads in the sand.

We have tried. We have worked with our Republican colleagues to craft several bipartisan bills—Democrats and Republicans alike—to safeguard our election infrastructure and deter any foreign adversary from targeting our democracy in 2020. We have asked the Republican majority on the Appropriations Committee to devote more resources to harden their election systems but to no avail.

Leader MCCONNELL has refused to bring these bills to the floor. Republicans have rebuffed our request for additional appropriations this year. Election security goes into MCCONNELL's legislative graveyard, even though it should be the most nonpartisan of issues.

He has refused—refused—to let us consider anything, using his power as majority leader. And he is backed up by every single Republican who is complicit in not stopping the Russians, as Putin seeks to stretch his long arm and delve into the sacred process of how we elect our officials.

What could possibly be the downside of ensuring our elections are fair and

free from foreign interference? Why would Leader MCCONNELL and every one of our Republican colleagues, who now have failed to step up to the plate even though some of them work with our colleagues on bills, ignore the admonitions of the Founding Fathers, who said that foreign interference is a grave danger to democracy? What could be the downside of ensuring our elections are fair and free? I ask that question of Leader MCCONNELL.

The only excuse I have heard is he says that additional action isn't necessary. Well, Mr. Mueller, who has done far more investigative work on this than just about anybody else, cleared up all of that yesterday. He didn't say we have done enough already. He didn't say we are on top of it. He said that much more needs to be done.

Leader MCCONNELL, do you disagree? Is Mueller wrong? Are all the experts wrong—the FBI, appointed by President Trump; the NSA, appointed by President Trump; and all those leaders who say we need to do more? We have heard them.

We are going to continue our fight for election security. We are not going to let Leader MCCONNELL put the bills passed by the House into his legislative graveyard without a fight. You are going to hear from us on this issue over and over again.

The legislative graveyard of Leader MCCONNELL is known from one end of the country to the other. Americans know he doesn't want to help them. He doesn't want to help middle-class Americans.

The graveyard of our Republican colleagues, in obeisance to powerful and special interests, gets larger, more stunning, and more debilitating to this country every day.

Yesterday, Democratic Senators requested unanimous consent to pass some election security legislation that they have worked on, much of which was bipartisan. The Republican majority blocked them. Soon—I believe in about an hour—I will be asking unanimous consent on the House-passed election security bill. It is sitting here. It is in the leader's drawer. Is he going to let this go to the legislative graveyard? We will see in an hour. I hope at least one of my Republican colleagues will come to the floor and urge that we vote on this or at least debate it and amend it—one.

The Republican leader's intransigent resistance to this effort is inexplicable. Why he wants to put election security in his legislative graveyard is impossible to explain on a logical basis. I believe his intransigence and his resistance are untenable.

When I move in about an hour for unanimous consent to bring the House bill to the floor, maybe something will be chirping in some of the brains of some of my colleagues here and say: We can't allow the Russians to interfere, and we have to do something.

If they don't agree with what the House passed, let them propose amend-

ments or let them propose an alternative, but let us debate. This is a national security issue of paramount importance.

I urge my friend the leader to stand down and let election security come to the floor. If he doesn't, all of America will know, when Russia interferes, why.

BUDGET AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another matter—this is on deficits. I am not in the habit of commenting on every opinion issued by newspapers I don't typically agree with, but this week, the Wall Street Journal wrote such a howler of an editorial that I feel compelled to.

The Wall Street Journal editorial board criticized the latest budget agreement for its increase in domestic spending, wringing its hands over the effect on deficits, while simultaneously praising defense spending, which the editorial board believes, for some reason, has nothing to do with deficits.

This, by the way, is the same editorial board that played head cheerleader for the Republican tax bill, which contained such mammoth tax cuts for the biggest corporations and the already wealthy that it will add \$2 trillion to our deficits—\$2 trillion. Huge tax cuts contributed more to the deficit than all of these spending programs put together, but the Wall Street Journal cheered on the tax cuts and now says: Don't spend for the middle class on things like education and infrastructure that have broad support in America and helping kids go to college. Don't spend on that because it increases the deficit, but it is OK to pass massive tax cuts for the rich and the big corporations that are already profitable.

So, for the sake of the record, the Wall Street Journal editorial board believes deficits are really bad but only if they are caused by investments in Americans' healthcare or education or infrastructure. When deficits are caused by defense spending and when deficits are caused by tax cuts for the wealthy, they are peachy.

The truth is, so many of my Republican friends have engaged in the same egregious bit of hypocrisy. So I have a few words this morning for my deficit-scolding friends Mick Mulvaney and the Wall Street Journal editorial board: A deficit is a deficit is a deficit. They try to make the argument that massive tax cuts won't create a deficit, but all the numbers that are coming in now and are projected in the future say that is just not true. If the Wall Street Journal really cared about deficits above all, they wouldn't have supported the tax bill.

When the Senate debated these tax cuts in 2017, there were several proposals on the table—many Democrats and Republicans supported them—that would have reduced taxes on corporations while remaining deficit-neutral.

Many would have changed the Tax Code in ways I didn't support, but nonetheless they would have held revenues and expenditures in line. We didn't hear a peep out of the Journal to support those proposals—oh, no. Democrats even put together a deficit-neutral middle-class tax cut at the time, but Republicans ignored it and pushed through Congress a bill that lined the pockets of the wealthy—blowing a \$2 trillion hole in our deficit. The Wall Street Journal could have said something then. They didn't. They were asleep at the switch. They were asleep at the switch then, and they are crying now.

The fact is, Republican tax cuts for the wealthy and endless wars in the Middle East, championed by George Bush and the Republican Party, are the big drivers of the Nation's debt and deficit, not nondefense domestic spending.

President Obama, to his credit, cut the budget deficit in half during his term. The last time we had a surplus was under a Democratic President, Bill Clinton. In fact, every single Republican administration has added to the deficit, while every single Democratic administration has shrunk it since 1981—Reagan, deficit increased; H. W., deficit increased; Bill Clinton, deficit goes down; George Bush, deficit increased; Obama, deficit goes down; Donald Trump, deficit going up. What does that say?

So, to the Wall Street Journal editorial board and my Republican friends who are silent about Trump-era deficits but rail against domestic spending, I say: Spare us. Enough. Enough with this deficit hypocrisy.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, on climate, I want to congratulate my dear friend, one of the most intelligent, hard-working, articulate Senators we have, SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, on reaching a rhetorical milestone. Usually "rhetoric" and "milestone" don't go together, but in his strong eloquence on the environment, they do.

Yesterday, Senator WHITEHOUSE gave his 250th speech on the subject of climate change. Many Members of this Chamber have yet to speak 250 times on the floor in total, much less on a single topic. Senator WHITEHOUSE's speeches have covered everything from sea level rise to polar cap ice melting and the effect of climate change on our economic security and our national security. He has diligently shone a light on the impediments to legislative progress on climate change, and he waxes fervent and poetic, condemning the web of dark money that funds fraudulent climate research and lobbies against climate action.

Much more important than Senator WHITEHOUSE's milestone, of course, is the issue he is talking about. Each passing week brings another proof point that climate change is happening

right now and reshaping our planet for the worse, moving so quickly that, at some point, we will not be able to recover no matter what we do.

The world will be so much worse for our children and grandchildren. I think of my 8-month-old—just turned 8 months on the 24th—my little grandson. Will his world be the same as ours? Will it be just as beautiful, or will it be flooding and fires and changes that make his life and the lives of his whole generation far more difficult? If we do nothing, that will happen.

Carbon levels in the atmosphere are at the highest point ever in human history. Just days ago, NBC reported that this will be the hottest July on record. Last month, June, was the hottest June on record.

We all know the consequences will be devastating, just devastating to our planet if we fail to take action soon. It is time for the Senate to debate serious, significant policies to address climate change. And, parenthetically, it is another place McCONNELL's legislative graveyard unfortunately gains—gains more and more. He will not do anything on climate change, as important as it is.

Let me thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his leadership on this issue. Maybe Leader McCONNELL will read his 250 speeches and have a change of heart. I doubt it, but who knows? I wish that all of my colleagues on the other side would listen to him and join Democrats in our efforts to pass legislation to combat climate change.

PUERTO RICO

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, one more point on Puerto Rico. Last night, the Governor of Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rossello, announced he will resign on August 2. I am glad that the Governor has listened to the voices of the people of Puerto Rico. It is clear he lost their trust, their respect, and certainly the mandate to govern. The most important thing now is a quick and orderly transition of power so that our fellow citizens on the island can turn the page on this difficult chapter and move forward.

No matter what, we have to stand with the people of Puerto Rico. The island is still a far way off from recovery after the devastation of recent hurricanes. It is essential that the local Puerto Rican economy continue to recover and that basic services performed by the government continue undisturbed as that process continues.

As a new Governor enters office, we pledge to do whatever we can to ensure the people of Puerto Rico receive the aid and the support they need. We fought incredibly hard on the disaster bill to make sure the people of Puerto Rico are not treated worse than any other U.S. citizens. The events of the past 2 weeks should in no way inhibit that aid from reaching the island quickly and efficiently. It is so badly needed. I will be watching and doing

everything in my power to guarantee that is the case.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to sound once again the alarm against Republicans' efforts to throw the lives of millions of families into chaos and uncertainty and to urge my colleagues to reverse course and join Democrats to protect people's healthcare before it is too late.

A few weeks ago, President Trump and Republican attorneys general argued in court to create a healthcare crisis for families in our country. If Republicans win their blatantly partisan lawsuit, the consequences could be sweeping and devastating. Tens of millions of people who have healthcare coverage through Medicaid Expansion or the exchanges could lose it, as could many young adults who are on their parents' insurance.

Over 100 million people with pre-existing conditions could lose protections that stop insurance companies from charging them more, excluding benefits they need or denying them coverage entirely. Patients could lose protections that require insurers to cover essential health benefits like prescription drug costs, maternity care, emergency care, or mental healthcare and more. Limits on how much patients have to pay out of pocket could go away, while lifetime and annual caps on patients' benefits could come back even to those insured through their employers.

Republicans have refused to acknowledge what is actually at stake now for the patients and families whose health they are putting at risk, and they have made it all too clear that despite the horrible consequences they are setting up, despite the lives they are throwing needlessly into jeopardy, Republicans are going to go full steam ahead with this reckless lawsuit to strike down healthcare for millions and without any plan to do anything if they win.

Some Republicans have tried to dodge this fact by saying they will fig-

ure it out after they win. That is an incredibly telling and incredibly alarming position. It is about as comforting as an arsonist telling you he will rebuild your house after he burns it down.

Let's be clear. Republicans have no plans for the patients who lose their coverage, no plans for the families who will see their healthcare costs go up, and no plans for people nationwide who rely on these protections for pre-existing conditions that could be taken away. They have no plan for all the people who will be hurt by the damage they are fighting to cause, and families expect better. They deserve better.

This is not rocket science. People want us to protect their healthcare, not take it away. They want us to bring healthcare costs down, not send them certainly higher. They want us to fight for them, not against them.

Republicans have made the wrong choice time and again. So I call on my Republican colleagues to stop this chaos and work with us. Let's fight for patients before it is too late. The clock is ticking, and patients and families are watching closely. If Republicans in the Trump administration refuse to end this partisan lawsuit, families and patients will be the ones who suffer the consequences, and they will not forget the Republicans who stood by and cheered and let it happen.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOON-MARS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, those of us who have had a chance over some time now to work with the former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, know that he is a man of ideas and is often thinking well beyond the moment. I had a chance the other day to read a paper that he prepared on President Trump's Moon-Mars Development Project, and I want to borrow heavily from his thinking as I talk about this project today.

It is an important time. We just spent significant time remembering, appreciating, and looking back at the 50th anniversary of American astronauts landing on the Moon and returning safely. Fifty years goes more quickly than you might think.

But for the first time in that 50 years, we are really at a point where there is a chance that we could cease to be the leading power in space. We decided we were going to become the leading power in space; we became the leading power in space; we have been the leading power in space. But that is

not necessarily a given, and you can last only so long living on your past accomplishments.

President Trump, on the Fourth of July, made this comment: "I want you to know that we are going to be back on the moon very soon, and someday soon we will plant an American flag on Mars."

My guess is that was received with sort of the same amount of skepticism as President Kennedy's challenge was more than 50 years ago. There is no question that the Artemis Project that President Trump is talking about is not the Apollo Project 50 years later. This is no longer an effort just to go somewhere and get back. We know we can do that. It is an effort to look at where we might go next and why we might benefit from that.

In May of 1961, President Kennedy challenged the Congress by saying we "should commit [ourselves] to achieving the goal"—talking about the goal of getting to the Moon—we "should commit [ourselves] to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth."

There was pretty heavy skepticism. I think 58 percent of the American people polled said they were opposed to doing that. Why would we send somebody to the Moon and worry about whether we could get them there? Of course, if we got them there, we would want to get them back. There was great skepticism.

So a little over a year later at Rice University, President Kennedy tried again. He said: "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

That is one of his famous quotes. If you look back at President Kennedy's challenge to the country, you hear it: We are going not because it is easy, but because it is hard.

He went on to say "because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win."

There is nothing wrong with an America that wants to win. There is nothing wrong with an America that doesn't want to take second place. There is nothing wrong with an America that wants to set a standard that everybody else can hope to achieve.

We had been caught a little flat-footed in the midfifties when the Russians put a satellite in space—Sputnik. Americans would go out and see if they could measure when it was passing over because they had put something up there that appeared to be there perpetually.

Then there was a cosmonaut in space. President Kennedy said that we don't want to accept anything more than the opportunity to meet big challenges and show what we can do to test ourselves.

The Vice President of the United States, Vice President PENCE, said at

the National Space Council in Huntsville, AL, on March 26 of this year that "50 years ago, 'one small step for man' became 'one giant leap for mankind.'"

You really had to be trying to avoid it not to hear that quote last week as it was being repeated over and over again. The Vice President said that now it's come time for us to "make the next 'giant leap' and return American astronauts to the Moon, establish a permanent base there, and develop the technologies to take American astronauts to Mars and beyond."

That's the next "giant leap."

You will note here that the direct connection between Moon development and going to Mars, as the President put it, is there. It is the reason to go back to the Moon. It is the reason to do what we can to understand the Moon. Our goal is not just getting to the Moon. Of course, we have already done that. Our goal is to be there and to do that in a way that works for us.

John Marburger, President George W. Bush's science adviser, said in 2006: "The Moon is the closest source of material that lies far up Earth's gravity well."

This is the closest place we can go and get material that can be used with 3D printing and all sorts of things that are possible to construct on the Moon that weren't possible to construct anywhere in that same way just a few years ago.

The first phase of science on the Moon would be a lot like exploring Antarctica. I haven't been to Antarctica. I would like to go sometime. We don't have people on Antarctica because Antarctica is an easy place to live; we have people staying all the time on Antarctica to see what we could learn by being on the continent of Antarctica all the time. The next phase of the Moon would be like that, with people going to the Moon, staying on the Moon, and looking at opportunities on the parts of the Moon where we believe there is ice. I know the formula for this. If you have ice, you probably have some form of water. If you have water, lots of things can happen that might not happen otherwise.

This is a project that will inspire others to want to be part of it, whether it is Jeff Bezos or Elon Musk or Richard Branson or Paul Allen—who has passed on, but was intrigued by the Moon. They are all people who have great private resources.

America was founded on a public-private model. Jamestown, Plimouth Plantation, and the East India Company all had private individuals with government sponsorship trying to make something happen that wouldn't happen otherwise. That, I suggest, can happen on the Moon.

In Newt Gingrich's telling of the challenge on the Moon, he repeated that great story of what happened at Wollman Rink and how it might relate to what could happen on the Moon if you are not bound by the normal things that bind a lot of people. Every

person thinking about the Moon-Mars project, according to former Speaker Gingrich, should look at what Donald Trump did at the Wollman Rink. The Wollman Rink was a very popular site for ice skating in New York City in 1980 when it broke down. It totally broke down. The city of New York spent 6 years and \$13 million trying to fix the ice rink. Fortunately, I guess, for the city of New York and ice skaters who go there, the abandoned ice rink happened to be within sight of President Trump's apartment. He kept complaining about the ice rink and the failure of the city to do anything about the ice rink. Finally, Mayor Koch said to Donald Trump: Why don't you fix it if you think this is so easily done? And he did. He fixed the ice rink in 4 months for \$2.25 million. I remember the city had already spent \$13 million and failed to fix the ice rink.

The first year after the ice rink was fixed, 225,000 people skated on the ice rink. One reason the President was able to do that as a private citizen was that he wasn't bound by the things that bind most people. He wasn't bound by the things that bind the government. The historic project to fix the Wollman Rink achieved the goal at 1/5 the cost and 1/18 the time that the city had used and did not get it done, and ice skaters flourished.

The same kinds of things could happen if we looked beyond the normal boundaries of what could happen in this project that the President has talked about.

Remember, on the effort to get to the Moon, President Kennedy turned that project over to Vice President Johnson and said: You are going to be in charge of NASA, and you are going to be the point person on the Moon project. So there is a little history there that may be repeating itself when, in March this year in Huntsville, AL, the Vice President outlined the principles we could use to meet the goals that the President had established for our efforts in space.

Principle No. 1 was to establish a big goal and then stick to it. Remember, we went to the Moon to start with, not because it was easy, but because it was hard. Establish a big goal, then stick to it. "Failure to achieve our goal to return an American astronaut to the Moon in the next 5 years is not an option," according to the Vice President.

Principle No. 2, Be prepared to reach outside the traditional bureaucracy to new, entrepreneurial, private companies if it is necessary to get the job done. He went on to say:

[W]e're not committed to any one contractor. If our current contractors can't meet this objective, then we'll find ones that will. If American industry can provide critical commercial services without government development, then we'll buy them.

We will buy into that project and share it with them. If commercial rockets are the only way to get American astronauts to the Moon in the next 5 years, then commercial rockets will be the way we return to the Moon.

Principle No. 3, Be willing to change the bureaucracy rather than abandon the goal.

[We will call on NASA not just to adopt new policies but to embrace a new mindset. That begins with setting bold goals and staying on schedule.

A new mindset matters. Failure is not an option. The willingness to postpone our goal, as President Kennedy said almost 60 years ago, is not an option.

Principle No. 4, Be determined to change the bureaucracy in fundamental ways.

NASA must transform itself into a leaner, more accountable, and more agile organization. If NASA is not currently capable of landing American astronauts [men and women] on the Moon in five years, we need to change the organization, not the mission.

By the way, as for principle No. 5, I know, in the Presiding Officer's case, it is coming from private business and might be his most important principle.

Principle No. 5, Urgency must replace complacency.

The hardest thing to achieve in government is just to drive to a result. The fifth principle that the Vice President set out is exactly that. It is not just competition against our adversaries; it is, frankly, competition against our worst enemy—complacency. It is competition against our own willingness to believe that things aren't going to happen that clearly can happen.

This is a great goal. It is a step to the Moon and beyond. It is a step outside our solar system to other solar systems. In our lifetimes, we may not see much of that, but this is not about our lifetimes; this is about a step into the future.

I applaud the President and the Vice President for their leadership here. I look forward to applying those five principles. By the way, I think almost all of those principles are five principles we could apply to government every day, and we would have a more effective government if we would.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent request. I know my colleague from Connecticut has one as well. In deference to the leader's schedule, I will speak for a few minutes on mine, and then I will yield to Senator BLUMENTHAL. He will speak for a few minutes on his, and then we will wait for the leader, who is supposed to come out in about 5 minutes, to object, if he so chooses. We will make the request after that.

Now, yesterday, everybody heard Special Counsel Mueller, and there was a lot of dispute about obstruction of justice and things like that. There was virtually no dispute about two facts that Mueller said. One, the Russians interfered in our elections in 2016, and, two, they plan to do it in 2020.

We rise on the floor because, when Russia or any foreign power seeks to interfere in our elections, it eats at the wellsprings of our democracy.

The Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, said that one of the greatest threats to our democracy was foreign interference. Now we are faced with the specter of it, and we are asking our Republican colleagues to join with us in doing everything we can to stop it. This is serious stuff.

Mr. Mueller said yesterday:

Russian interference wasn't a single attempt. They are doing it as we sit here, and they expect to do it in the next campaign.

That is Robert Mueller, one of the most authoritative voices on this issue.

Mueller warned that "much more needs to be done" to fortify against future attacks, not just from Russia but from others looking to interfere in our elections as well.

Mr. Mueller is not the only one calling for action on election security. FBI Director Wray, appointed by President Trump, has said the same. Director of National Intelligence Coats, also appointed by President Trump, has stressed that foreign actors "will add new tactics as they learn from 2016."

So we must do more. This is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. This is not a liberal issue or a moderate issue or conservative issue. This is an issue of patriotism, of national security, of protecting the very integrity of American democracy—something so many of our forebears died for.

And what do we hear from the Republican side? Nothing. There is no credence to the claim made by the leader that we have already done enough in this Chamber. Mueller, Wray, and Coats all said that we need to do more—all of them.

Here in the Senate, the Senate Intelligence Committee, led by Senator BARR of North Carolina, a Republican, has recommended we do more. They too say otherwise. Yet Leader MCCONNELL and the Republican majority refuse to do anything.

So in a moment I am going to ask unanimous consent to pass legislation that safeguards our election. This legislation passed the House nearly a month ago. It would provide immediate resources for the States to modernize their election infrastructure and establish a consistent funding stream to maintain it.

The States say they need more money. It will require the use of paper ballots. Almost every expert agrees that that is needed to protect elections from manipulation, because if they manipulate the machines, the paper ballots will be a safeguard.

It would require States to conduct postelection risk-limiting audits, and it would shore up the cyber security of voting systems and ensure that election technology vendors are held to the highest standards so the Russians or no one else can hack into these machines and interfere.

These are not revolutionary changes. They are basic commonsense steps to greatly improve the security of our elections after President Putin conducted a systemic attack on our democracy and intends to do it again.

The House has passed this bill already. We could deliver it to the President today.

Now, the Republican leader has already indicated his intention to bury this bill in the legislative graveyard. That is a disgrace. That would be as if we said: We don't need a military. We don't need ships off our shores or planes in the air.

Attacks on our elections are as great a threat to our national security as any other, and yet, for reasons inexplicable, the Republican leader refuses to bring legislation to the floor, legislation that has been crafted in a bipartisan way.

Many of the bills that are before us have Democratic and Republican sponsors, and if the rumors are true, the leader urged the Republicans to back off.

There are only two inferences, neither good. One is that the Republican side doesn't care about interference in our elections, and the other is that they want it because maybe they think it will benefit them.

I know that President Trump doesn't like to talk about this. He childishly thinks this will cast aspersions on the legitimacy of his election. That is sort of a very babyish, selfish thing to think when our security is at risk.

But where are our Republican colleagues when our national security is threatened? Where are our Republican colleagues? If we invite the Russians to interfere by not doing enough and they do and Americans lose faith in the fundamental wellspring of America, our grand democracy, this is the beginning of the end of democracy in this country.

As George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin warned us, we must do all we can to prevent foreign interference in our elections. By allowing this UC request to go through, we will be taking a giant first step. I hope the leader goes along.

And, again, if he says the States don't need it, the States say they do. They are the judge.

I will be asking my request in a minute, but first let me yield to Senator BLUMENTHAL, who will also have a UC request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from New York, our distinguished leader, for his very powerful and compelling remarks and for his steadfast leadership on this issue of election security.

The issue of election security goes to the core of our national security. In the last Presidential election, this Nation was attacked. It was an attack as pernicious and insidious as any in this country's history, although it was less

visible than bombs dropped at Pearl Harbor and less dramatic than the attacks on our troops elsewhere, whether in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was an attack on this Nation, and some of us have called it, in fact, an act of war on both sides of the aisle.

On both sides of the aisle there has been unanimity, in fact, that the attack was by the Russians through social media and through other means and tools of misinformation and disinformation to interfere with our election. That unanimity comes not only from Robert Mueller, a distinguished public servant and dedicated American, but also from our entire intelligence community.

There is only one person in a position of authority who disagrees, and that is the President of the United States, who finds Vladimir Putin more credible than our intelligence community and has said so publicly.

In a few moments, I will ask for unanimous consent for the passage of S. 1247, the Duty to Report Act, which would address the President's saying very explicitly that he would accept outside help from a foreign power, again, in the course of an election.

The proof is overwhelming that the Trump campaign accepted it in the last election. But even disputing those facts, even putting aside the President's contention that there was never an attack from the Russians, the opinion is overwhelming that we must act on a very simple idea: If you see something, say something.

The Duty to Report Act that I have offered would require companies, candidates, and family members to immediately report to the FBI and to the Federal Election Commission any offers of Federal assistance.

It codifies into law what is already—I think we all agree—a moral duty, a patriotic duty, a matter of common sense. It is already illegal to accept foreign assistance during a campaign. It is already illegal to solicit foreign assistance during a campaign.

All this bill does is require campaigns and individuals to report such illegal foreign assistance directly to the FBI.

Yesterday, Robert Mueller came before Congress to answer questions about his sweeping investigation and 448-page report. This report documents compellingly and convincingly the most serious attack on our democracy by a foreign power in our history. It tells the story of 140 contacts between the Trump campaign and Russian agents. It proves Russian covert and overt efforts to influence the outcome of our election by helping one candidate and hurting another. It shows powerfully the Trump campaign's knowledge of that effort and willingness to accept that help.

Mueller testified yesterday:

Over the course of my career, I've seen a number of challenges to our democracy. The Russian government's effort to interfere in our election is among the most serious. As I

said on May 29, this deserves the attention of every American.

The legislation Senator SCHUMER is offering through unanimous consent now, the legislation that I am offering by unanimous consent now, is necessary as a matter of urgent national security. We have no choice but to defend our Nation and our democracy. Given the sweeping, sophisticated attack by the Russians outlined in the Mueller report and confirmed by his testimony yesterday, we have an obligation to act now, as we would against any impending attack in our history.

Just the day before yesterday, FBI Director Christopher Wray came before the Judiciary Committee and warned that the Russians are actively trying to interfere in our elections right now, in real time, as we speak here. He has told this body that if a foreign agent or government tries to help a campaign, the FBI would want to know about it. That also is a matter of simple moral duty, patriotic duty, and common sense.

When asked if he would accept foreign help in 2020, the President said, "I'd take it." This is much like when his son, Don Junior, said "I love it" in response to Russia's offer of assistance to the Trump campaign in the June 9th meeting now infamous in these Halls and in the country.

When Mueller was asked about this yesterday, he said, "I hope this is not the new normal, but I fear it is." Well, it doesn't have to be the new normal if Congress passes the Duty to Report Act. This legislation would ensure that if any campaign—literally any campaign—were offered any assistance from any foreign government in any future election, the FBI would learn of it.

Mr. President, 2016 was just a dress rehearsal. We can expect that the same will happen with greater intensity and sophistication in the election to come. We have a duty to act against it—taking the measure sent to us by the House of Representatives, introduced for unanimous consent by Senator SCHUMER now, and the Duty to Report Act now—so that we protect our democracy going forward.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from 21 attorneys general saying they need more election assistance to protect against foreign interference.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
St. Paul, MN, June 18, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD SHELBY,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROY BLUNT,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations,
Washington, DC.

Hon. AMY KLOBUCHAR,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration,
Washington, DC.

DEAR HONORABLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: The undersigned Attorneys General write to express our significant concern regarding the persistent threats to our election systems and to urge Congress to take action to protect the integrity of our election infrastructure.

Intelligence officials and the Department of Justice continue to warn that our election systems have been a target for foreign adversaries and that those same adversaries are currently working to undermine the upcoming elections. The Special Counsel's Report concludes that Russia interfered in our elections in a "sweeping and systematic fashion." New reports confirm that Russia successfully breached election systems in Florida and the Department of Homeland Security is reviewing computers used in North Carolina after the state experienced irregularities on Election Day. In addition, documents leaked by the National Security Agency show that hackers working for Russian military intelligence installed malware on a voting systems software company used in eight states, including North Carolina. Russia's military intelligence service also broadly performed reconnaissance on state and local election boards, researched—and in some cases targeted—the election infrastructure of all 50 states, successfully invaded state election websites to steal sensitive information from tens of thousands of American voters, and hacked into a company that supplies voting software to states across the U.S.

In the wake of these attacks on our democracy, the Congress and Federal Government have taken some important steps to address the threats facing our democracy. The Department of Homeland Security is working with states to improve election security, and in the 2018 Omnibus, Congress provided \$380 million in grant funding to help states secure their election systems. The Election Assistance Commission, the federal agency charged with disseminating and auditing the election security grants, projects that states will spend approximately \$324 million, or 85 percent of the grant funds, prior to the 2020 elections. This funding was an important first step in helping to secure our election infrastructure, however more must be done. Our state and local election officials are on the front-lines of the fight to protect our election infrastructure, but they lack the resources necessary to combat a sophisticated foreign adversary like Russia. Therefore, we respectfully request that you provide additional assistance to states seeking to modernize their elections systems and take the following actions to protect our elections from future attacks:

Provide additional election security grants to states and localities. Today, more than at any other time in our nation's history, election officials face unique challenges that require access to federal financial support. Additional funding for voting infrastructure will not only allow states to upgrade election equipment and voter registration systems and databases, it will allow them to further fortify their election systems from

future cyberattacks. Sustained federal funding is necessary to pay for continued training, equipment replacements, software upgrades and implementation of security controls. This funding is vital if we are to adequately equip our states with the resources we need to safeguard our democracy.

Support the establishment of cybersecurity and audit standards for election systems. It is critical that the federal government work with elections officials and technical experts to establish guidelines and best practices for election security. We believe that the U.S. Election Assistance Commission should update its standards for voting machines and take a stronger regulatory role in testing voting equipment before it is sold to states. The federal government should also keep state elections officials closely informed about suspected breaches, alerts, and related intelligence. There should be clear channels of communication so that local and state officials can share information with federal authorities.

Pass election-security legislation. Last year, a group of state attorneys general voiced support for the Secure Elections Act, bipartisan legislation that would improve information sharing and strengthen election security. We reiterate our support for action on election security reform. The National Association of Secretaries of State and our state elections officials can be a valuable resource as Congress considers specific proposals.

The nature of the threat against our election systems requires the federal government to provide increased assistance to the states. Securing our election systems is a matter of national security and we hope that you will take immediate action to protect our election infrastructure and restore Americans' trust in our election systems.

Keith Ellison, Attorney General of Minnesota; Philip Weiser, Attorney General of Colorado; Kathleen Jennings, Attorney General of Delaware; Kwame Raoul, Attorney General of Illinois; Brian Frosh, Attorney General of Maryland; Dana Nessel, Attorney General of Michigan; Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of California; William Tong, Attorney General of Connecticut; Clare E. Connors, Attorney General of Hawaii; Tom Miller, Attorney General of Iowa; Maura Healey, Attorney General of Massachusetts; Jim Hood, Attorney General of Mississippi; Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General of Nevada; Letitia James, Attorney General of New York State; Ellen Rosenblum, Attorney General of Oregon; Peter Neronha, Attorney General of Rhode Island; Mark R. Herring, Attorney General of Virginia; Hector Balderas, Attorney General of New Mexico; Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina; Josh Shapiro, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; T.J. Donovan, Attorney General of Vermont; Bob Ferguson, Attorney General of Washington State.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2722

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2722, the SAFE Act; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, what my friend the Democratic leader is asking unanimous consent to pass is partisan legislation from the Democratic House of Representatives relating to American elections. This is the same Democratic House that made its first big priority in this Congress a sweeping partisan effort to rewrite all kinds of the rules of American politics—not to achieve greater fairness but to give themselves a one-sided political benefit.

The particular bill the Democratic leader is asking to move by unanimous consent is so partisan that it received one—just one—Republican vote over in the House. Clearly, this request is not a serious effort to make a law. Clearly, something so partisan that it only received one single solitary Republican vote in the House is not going to travel through the Senate by unanimous consent.

It is very important that we maintain the integrity and security of our elections in our country. Any Washington involvement in that task needs to be undertaken with extreme care and on a thoroughly bipartisan basis. Obviously, this legislation is not that. It is just a highly partisan bill from the same folks who spent 2 years hyping up a conspiracy theory about President Trump and Russia and who continue to ignore this administration's progress in correcting the Obama administration's failures on this subject in the 2018 election; therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, just for a moment, there are bipartisan bills on this issue which the Republican majority has objected to. I suggest to my friend the majority leader, if he doesn't like this bill, let's put another bill on the floor and debate it. So far, we have done nothing—absolutely nothing in this Chamber to protect our country and its election security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1247

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I have a separate bill. It has not come to us from the House, but it should have bipartisan support.

I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1247; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of all of our colleagues, I want to provide an update on the remaining items the Senate needs to complete before we adjourn for the August State work period.

Here is what we need to accomplish before Members depart next week: We need to confirm well-qualified nominees to two open positions of utmost importance—the Deputy Secretary of Defense and our Ambassador to the U.N. These jobs are important, the nominees are impressive, and we need to confirm David Norquist and Kelly Craft next week.

Obviously, we need to pass the bipartisan funding agreement that President Trump's negotiating team worked out with Speaker PELOSI. The House will pass it today. The President is strongly in support of it. The Senate needs to pass it and put it on the President's desk next week.

We need to make more headway on the backlog of qualified judicial nominees who are waiting for confirmation, so next week we will also need to process a significant, bipartisan package of district court nominees.

That is our to-do list for next week—the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the U.N. Ambassador, the bipartisan government funding agreement, and a significant group of well-qualified judges. Not bad for a week's work. That is what the Senate will accomplish before we adjourn for August.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 119.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

James Inhofe, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Joni Ernst, Kevin Cramer, Ben Sasse, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, John Cornyn, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker,

Richard Burr, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt,
Mitch McConnell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Peter D. Welte, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination 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 D. Welte, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

Mitch McConnell, Kevin Cramer, Mike Crapo, John Kennedy, Thom Tillis, Richard C. Shelby, James M. Inhofe, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, John Boozman, Marco Rubio, Cory Gardner, Steve Daines, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, John Hoeven.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 203.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Kevin Cramer, Mike Crapo, Marco Rubio, John Kennedy, Thom Tillis, James M. Inhofe, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, John Boozman, Cory Gardner, Steve Daines, Richard C. Shelby, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, John Hoeven.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 204.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 205.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 231.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 232.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 233.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 326.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 327.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 345.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 350.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike

Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 352.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 364.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 48.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Karin J. Immergut, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Karin J. Immergut, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Thune, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Johnny Isakson, Mike Braun, Bill Cassidy, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, Marco Rubio, Kevin Cramer, James E. Risch, Pat Roberts.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 55.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John Milton Younge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John Milton Younge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 344.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 346.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 351.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination. The bill clerk read the nomination of Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

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 Senator from Massachusetts.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, yesterday the American people finally heard at length directly from Special Counsel Robert Mueller. In his testimony before the House Judiciary Committee and the Intelligence Committee, the special counsel gave voice to his report on Russian interference in our 2016 Presidential election and President Trump's obstruction of the investigation into it.

What the American people and I heard from Special Counsel Mueller was an explanation and confirmation of the deeply troubling findings and conclusions of his investigation and his written report. He told us that the Trump campaign welcomed the help of a hostile foreign power, Russia, to influence our 2016 election, accepted that help, lied repeatedly about it, and benefited from it.

He confirmed that there was voluminous evidence that President Trump had obstructed justice through his efforts to interfere with and impede the special counsel's investigation. Most importantly, contrary to the President's claims, the special counsel confirmed that his investigation had not exonerated the President of the crime of obstruction of justice. When asked, Robert Mueller made this crystal clear,

testifying that “the President was not exculpated for the acts that he allegedly committed.”

In his testimony yesterday, Special Counsel Mueller did not back away from any of his written report’s findings. The American people saw and heard him emphatically defend them.

Special Counsel Mueller, a decorated war hero, gave every single American cause for deep alarm when he called Russian interference in support of the Trump campaign “among the most serious challenges” to American democracy that he had ever seen.

He agreed that it was “unpatriotic” and “wrong” to seek campaign help from a foreign power, and he decried President Trump’s failure to acknowledge or respond to the systematic and sweeping Russian interference, warning: “They’re doing it as we sit here.”

Yesterday, Donald Trump tried to defend himself in tweets while Robert Mueller defended our democracy with his testimony.

The special counsel’s testimony and events of the past few weeks have led to the undeniable conclusion that it is time for the House of Representatives to begin a formal impeachment proceeding against President Trump.

I stand here today on the Senate floor, the place where an unprecedented trial would occur, understanding the gravity of this moment in our Nation’s history. I stand here today because I believe we have reached the moment where we must stand up for the survival of our democracy.

Before I came to this decision, I said that I needed to hear directly from Special Counsel Mueller and other witnesses, that Congress needed to obtain documents, and that we needed to gather all the facts and evidence.

I had hoped that the House Judiciary Committee’s investigation would get us answers to the questions about the President’s obstructive conduct that remained after Special Counsel Mueller issued his report. I had hoped that the President, who continues to insist that he did nothing wrong, would cooperate and that the House Judiciary Committee would receive testimony and other evidence from the Trump campaign and Trump administration witnesses. That has not happened, and that is because of continued and deliberate Presidential obstruction.

Just listen to the numerous roadblocks that the President has put in Congress’s way since Special Counsel Mueller issued his report in March. President Trump has denied the entire Congress access to the full and unredacted version of the Mueller report and its underlying materials.

President Trump has claimed that key witnesses, like former White House Counsel Donald McGahn and former White House Communications Director Hope Hicks, are immune from testifying or simply don’t have to comply with congressional subpoenas.

President Trump has opposed testimony from two of the special counsel’s

top deputies and restricted the scope of the Mueller testimony, and President Trump has vowed to fight any future congressional subpoenas.

What we have seen from President Trump is a pattern of repeated and baseless defiance of the House’s constitutional authority to investigate, especially subpoenas seeking evidence that the President obstructed justice and abused his power.

The President has engaged in stonewalling that shows an unprecedented disregard and contempt for a coequal branch of government under our Constitution—disregard and contempt that would make Richard Nixon blush with envy.

Taken together, Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s testimony and the President’s obstruction of the congressional investigation compel us to immediately begin a formal impeachment inquiry.

I do not come to this decision lightly. An impeachment proceeding against the President of the United States is a matter of the highest constitutional magnitude, but when the evidence demonstrates that the President of the United States obstructed the special counsel’s investigation and when the facts and the evidence demonstrate that the President of the United States is continuing to obstruct justice, seeking to derail a legitimate congressional investigation into the lawfulness of his conduct while in office, then Congress must do its constitutional duty and act.

The acts of obstruction that Special Counsel Mueller described in his report and in his testimony yesterday to Congress are impeachable offenses—a view shared by myriad constitutional scholars, attorneys, and prosecutors.

The President improperly pressed then-FBI Director James Comey to drop the investigation of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and, subsequently, fired Comey because of the Russia investigation—confirmed yesterday by the special counsel’s testimony.

The President unlawfully demanded that then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions reverse his recusal from the Russia investigation and take over the investigation—confirmed yesterday by the special counsel’s testimony.

The President engaged in witness tampering and falsification of government records when he directed White House Counsel Don McGahn to fire Robert Mueller and later pressured McGahn to deny that it had happened—confirmed yesterday by the special counsel’s testimony.

The President engaged in a coverup when he sought to prevent public disclosure of evidence about the infamous June 9, 2016, Trump Tower meeting—confirmed yesterday by the special counsel’s testimony.

The President abused his constitutional authority by holding out the prospect of pardons in exchange for witnesses’ silence—confirmed yesterday by the special counsel’s testimony.

That Robert Mueller found so much evidence that this President committed impeachable offenses might be shocking, but it should not be surprising. After all, look at what we have learned about this President during his 2½ years in office, what he is willing to say and what he is willing to do.

Did an American President put family members in high-level White House policy positions—positions requiring security clearances that should never have been issued? Yes, he did.

Did an American President repeatedly show infatuation with and express sympathy for authoritarian figures around the globe, most notably Vladimir Putin, the man who interfered with the 2016 election to President Trump’s benefit? Yes, he did.

Did an American President face multiple, repeated, and credible allegations of sexual assault by more than a dozen women—sexual assault that he bragged about on tape? Yes, he did.

Did an American President become known as individual No. 1, in effect an unindicted coconspirator on charges of Federal campaign finance law violations that were brought against his lawyer, Michael Cohen, in New York? Yes, he did.

Did an American President seek to divide Americans based on race, religion, and ethnicity, directing racist language at elected Members of Congress and urging others to celebrate that hate? Sadly, yes, he did.

We have watched as Donald Trump has given the Constitution a stress test, the likes of which we haven’t seen in 230 years. We have watched him attack judges and seek to intimidate the judiciary.

We have watched him disregard Congress’s coequal role in government under article I of the Constitution, whether by spending unappropriated money on his border wall, relying on “acting” government officials to eviscerate the Senate’s advice and consent function, or ignoring legitimate oversight requests.

We have watched the President sue Congress in order to block release of his tax returns and refuse to disclose any meaningful information about his business operations, especially sources of foreign investment and loans, raising alarming questions about violations of the Constitution’s emoluments clause.

This President relishes attacking the freedom of the press and has incited violence against journalists for exercising their First Amendment rights.

Donald Trump is tearing at the fabric of our democracy, literally, every single day. And yesterday, the Congress and the American people heard the facts and evidence that Congress can and should act to hold him accountable.

In the face of impeachable offenses, it is the Constitution that entrusts the Congress with the responsibility of deciding whether to remove a President of the United States from office for

high crimes and misdemeanors. Indeed, in the face of evidence of serious and persistent misconduct that is harmful to the Nation, Congress would be abusing its constitutional discretion and setting a dangerous precedent if it did not begin an impeachment inquiry.

If the evidence of obstruction of justice and other wrongdoing that Robert Mueller explained yesterday is not evidence of impeachable offenses, what is? What damage would a future President have to inflict in order to trigger an impeachment inquiry?

I have no illusions about where an impeachment inquiry will lead. My Republican colleagues have thus far shown themselves unwilling to hold this President accountable. They believe that everything is “all over.” But the evidence in the Mueller report and the special counsel’s testimony yesterday explaining it, defending it, and reaffirming it compel us to do what is right and what is necessary, and that is to exercise our authority and begin an impeachment proceeding against Donald Trump. Nothing less than our democracy is at stake. I call upon my colleagues in the House of Representatives to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

BUDGET AGREEMENT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I have one message for my colleagues in the Senate and those who might be watching. It is about this chart, which is very simple. This is the line of what we call discretionary spending. This is about 31 percent of the budget. That is the budget agreement you have read about in the newspapers the last couple of days. That is what we are talking about.

It is a blue line. It has to do with paying for our national defense, so it is about half of the dollars; then for our national parks, America’s best idea; then for the National Institutes of Health, the source of medical miracles ranging from restoring your heart to curing Zika to the National Laboratories, which are the sources of our competition with the rest of the world. That is what this money is for.

What the blue line recognizes is that for the last 10 years, the growth in spending for national defense, national parks, the National Institutes of Health, and National Labs has gone up at about the rate of inflation, and for the next 10 years, including the budget agreement that the President and the congressional leaders recommended this week, it will go at about the rate of inflation.

The point is, for 20 years—2008 to 2029—the increase in spending for the amount of money we are talking about and for the type of spending in the budget agreement is not the source of the Federal deficit. What is? Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest—that is the red line that 10 years ago was \$1.8 trillion. At the rate we are going, it will be \$5.4 trillion in 10 years.

That is not the type of spending we are talking about in the budget agreement.

My message today is in support of properly funding national defense, national parks, National Institutes of Health, and National Labs and not beating our chest and pretending that we are balancing the budget on the backs of our soldiers, our medical miracles, and our national parks when, in fact, it is the entitlements that the President and the Democrats and the Republicans in Congress need to address.

I will talk about the blue line today. I have talked about the red line plenty before. Former Senator Corker and I introduced legislation a few years ago that would have reduced the growth of this red line by \$1 trillion over 10 years. The only problem was, we were the only two cosponsors of the legislation.

The budget deficit is vitally damaging to our country, but the budget agreement that President Trump recommended is not the source of the budget deficit. That part of the budget is under control. That is 31 percent of all the dollars we spend in the United States. Just add to that, if this continues for another 10 years, this blue line—national defense, national parks, National Institutes of Health, National Laboratories—is going to go from 31 percent of the budget to 22 percent of the budget, and mandatory spending is going up to 78 percent. This is the budget deficit. This is the budget agreement we are going to be voting on next week. That part of the budget is under control.

Here is what the budget agreement, which the President recommended and our Democratic and Republican leaders in the House and Senate have recommended and which I strongly support, does. The first thing it does is suspend the debt limit—the amount we can borrow. If we don’t do that, we have a global fiscal crisis. We all know that, so we need to do it.

Second, it raises the defense and non-defense discretionary budget caps. That is this blue line down here. That is the amount of money we can spend, as I said, on national defense. That is about half of the spending—and then our veterans, National Labs, biomedical research, and national parks.

Let’s talk about the military for just a minute. Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis, who had enormous respect here in Congress, said that “no enemy in the field has done as much harm to the readiness of the U.S. military than the combined impact of the Budget Control Act’s defense spending caps, worsened by operating for 10 of the last 11 years under continuing resolutions of varied and unpredictable duration.”

In plain English, what that means is that because of the President’s leadership and the recommendations of our bipartisan leaders, we will avoid what Secretary Mattis said has been so damaging to our military.

Here is what happened. Back in 2011, we passed the Budget Control Act to try to limit this part of the budget. That came after a special committee was appointed, which everyone hoped would deal with this part of the budget—the problem part, the part that is causing the deficit.

The Budget Control Act came up with a formula that everybody thought would work. They said: Well, if we put in there that we will have dramatic reductions in military spending, Congress will never do that, so they will be forced to finally do something we all should have had the courage to do a long time ago, and that is deal with entitlements.

What happened? We didn’t deal with the red line, and we cut the military. We cut the military badly over the last 10 years, and we are just now beginning to catch up. Last year, Congress avoided sequestration and increased discretionary spending for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Let me say it again, because I am going to repeat it over and over and over: We increased spending last year at about the rate of inflation. That is not the cause of the Federal deficit. Reaching that agreement, though, meant that for the first time in nearly a decade the Department of Defense received its budget on time, and it received a record funding level for research and development.

This new 2-year budget agreement that the President has recommended will rebuild our military by providing \$738 billion for defense discretionary spending for 2020 and \$740 billion for 2021.

It will also allow us to fulfill the commitment we made as a part of the New START Treaty in 2010 in December. I voted for that, and part of the deal with President Obama was that if we passed the treaty limiting nuclear weapons, we would make sure that ours worked. President Trump said the other day that Russia has 1,111 nuclear weapons, and they all work. We don’t want them to use them, and the best way to keep them from using them is to make sure ours work.

We have reached a budget agreement so that we can get to work on the appropriations bills and hopefully get many of them done before the end of the fiscal year, which is the 30th of September. That is important to the military especially.

When I met with Secretary of the Army Mark Esper, who was approved by a big vote yesterday as Secretary of Defense, we talked about what it meant to have an appropriations bill passed into law on time, instead of a so-called continuing resolution, which is just a lazy way to go. It just says to spend next year what you spent last year, which means we don’t spend for the things we need to spend, and we don’t stop spending on the things we shouldn’t spend.

Here are some of the benefits of passing the appropriations bill on time,

which would mean October 1. It keeps large projects on time and on budget. That is true in the Defense Department, and it is also true other places. We have a big project called the Uranium Processing Facility at Oak Ridge, TN, which comes through the Energy and Water Appropriations Committee, which I chair, and Senator FEINSTEIN is the ranking member. We made sure that is on time and on budget—\$6.5 billion by 2025. But if we don't appropriate the money on time and on budget, we can't finish the project on time and on budget, and who is hurt by that? Our national defense and our taxpayers or the Chickamauga Lock in Tennessee.

All of the Army Corps of Engineers leaders have told me: Don't start these projects and then stop them. Don't stop and start and stop and start. That wastes money and slows things down.

So, for the last several years, we have continued steady reconstruction. We need to pass these on time and on budget.

Also, it keeps equipment maintenance at the Department of Defense on schedule. That saves money. There is more research and development for new technologies. It speeds up modernization of current equipment and keeps military training on schedule. That means soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are properly prepared for prompt combat, and it prevents accidents.

This new 2-year agreement also helps our veterans. In 2018, President Trump signed the VA MISSION Act, which the Senate passed by a vote of 92 to 5. The MISSION Act gave veterans the ability to seek medical care outside the Department of Veterans Affairs and see a private doctor closer to home. So if you are 60 miles away in the State of Nebraska or Kansas or Tennessee and you need medical care and you can't be seen at a VA facility, you can see a private doctor close to home. This budget agreement makes sure we have enough money to support that, and I will ask the staff here how much that is.

Senator PERDUE said yesterday that 40 percent of the increase in the spending in this budget agreement, on the discretionary side, is to help veterans with the Choice Program. So it is not even in the national defense part of the budget; it is in the nondefense part of the budget. It helps veterans. So 40 percent of this increase is helping veterans on top of what we spend for defense, and we still keep the spending at about the rate of inflation. That is not the source of our budget deficit.

It is important for the American people to know that the Republican majority in Congress has worked together with Democrats to provide record levels of funding for science, research, and technology. In the Senate, Senator BLUNT from Missouri and Senator MURRAY from Washington State have provided the leadership for that in the Appropriations Committee.

In April 2016, Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of

Health, told our Appropriations Committee—I am a member of that, as are Senator DURBIN and others; we worked on this together—that with adequate and consistent funding, he can make 10 bold predictions about some of the medical miracles he expects over the next several years. He talked about regenerative medicine that would replace heart transplants by restoring your heart from your own cells. He talked about vaccines for Zika, for HIV/AIDS, and for the universal flu, which kills tens of thousands. He talked about an artificial pancreas. He talked about cures for Alzheimer's or at least medicines that would identify the symptoms—that would identify Alzheimer's before the symptoms and do something about it.

Since fiscal year 2015, the Appropriations Committee has increased funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$9 billion, or 30 percent. From \$30.3 billion in 2015 to \$39.34 billion in fiscal year 2019, Senator BLUNT and Senator MURRAY did that by cutting some programs and increasing the National Institutes of Health. They did it all down here in the blue line that stays within the rate of inflation—not up here in the red line. That is called good government.

I can't tell you the number of leaders of academic and research institutions I meet who say that the young investigators in our country are so encouraged by this new funding for biomedical research, and they are busy working on the next miracles. That is what consistent funding will do.

Dr. Collins came back to the committee this year, and I asked him if he was ready to update those bold predictions. He said: We are close to a cure for sickle cell anemia—sickle cell disease—and a new, nonaddictive painkiller which in my view would be the holy grail in our fight against opioids. With this new budget agreement, Congress could increase funding for the National Institutes of Health for the sixth consecutive year to continue this life-saving research and do it all within the blue line, which is not the cause of the Federal budget deficit.

Let's go to the Office of Science. Last year, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee that I chair with the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the ranking Democrat, agreed, along with Congress, for the fourth consecutive year—and President Trump signed it—to provide record funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science. With this new budget, we can do it for 5 years. What does this mean? This means funding for the 17 National Laboratories, including the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which are America's secret weapon. No other country has anything like our National Laboratories. Many Americans worry about competition from China and other parts of the world. How do we meet that competition? Through innovation.

Where does that innovation come from? It is hard to think of a major ini-

tiative that has not come since World War II without some federally sponsored research funding. Funding our Labs is important and helps keep us first in the world in supercomputing. Why is supercomputing important? Because it keeps our standard of living high and keeps our national defense on its toes.

China knows that. Two years ago, China had the two top supercomputers, but today the United States has the two fastest supercomputers in the world and the Exascale computing project will deliver the next generation system starting in 2021. This accomplishment is not the result of 1 year of funding or one political party but 10 years of bipartisan effort through the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations, Democratic and Republican, to try to make sure America is first in the world of supercomputing. We did it all under the blue line over the last 10 years. The funding went up at the rate of inflation, not through the Moon like in entitlements which is the source of the Federal budget deficit, not the money we spend to keep ahead of China and Japan in supercomputing.

On national parks, Ken Burns and others say America's national parks are our best idea. There are 417 of them. They have a badly deferred maintenance backlog. Senators PORTMAN, WARNER, KING, myself, and others are working with President Trump, who supports our legislation, to try to cut half of the deferred maintenance in the national park backlogs in the next 5 years. We are going to use money from energy on Federal lands to do that.

Americans are often shocked to find when they go to Federal parks that bathrooms don't work, roofs leak, and campgrounds are closed because there is not enough money for maintenance. This budget helps make sure our national parks are something Americans can continue to enjoy—all 418 of those parks—and we do that under the blue line that goes up at the rate of inflation, not at the budget-busting rate of the entitlements line.

I have said this over and over, and it needs to be said over and over. The red line is mandatory spending. The blue line is discretionary spending. The blue line will be \$1.6 trillion at the end of 10 more years. The red line will be \$5.4 trillion at the end of 10 more years. Ten years ago, the blue line was 1.1 and the red line was 1.8. What do you think the problem is for the source of the Federal budget? You don't need a Ph.D. in mathematics to figure this out. It is not this line. It is not national defense; it is not biomedical research; it is not supercomputing; it is not the Army Corps of Engineers. It is this one line—entitlements. It is our fault for not having dealt with it, but we shouldn't beat our chest and pretend to balance the budget by decimating the work on that blue line. Discretionary spending is only 31 percent of the money. Mandatory spending is the rest of the funding. It will increase from 69 percent of

total spending to 78 percent in 2029. The spending on national parks, national defense, National Institutes of Health, and National Labs will be reduced to 22 percent. I don't believe we can properly defend our country, properly keep up our parks, stay first in the world in supercomputing, and expect to continue biomedical research that produces lifesaving miracles if we squeeze all the money out of the blue line and let it go up in the air on the red line.

The United States is experiencing robust economic growth, and there is a lot of political talk in this Chamber but no one really disputes that. Our economy is growing and growing. We have not seen anything like it in a long time. There have been 6 million new jobs created just since President Trump was elected, with the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years, at 3.7 percent.

Before Congress passed the major tax reform in 31 years, our gross domestic product was projected to be a little less than 2 percent over the next 10 years. For the first quarter of 2019 this year, actual gross domestic product was a little over 3 percent. Higher GDP and lower unemployment leads to higher family incomes and more revenue for the Federal Government. More revenue for the Federal Government reduces the debt.

I urge my colleagues to support this 2-year budget agreement. To those who are worried about the Federal debt, I am worried about it too. That is why Senator Corker and I put our bill in to reduce by a growth of \$1 trillion over 10 years what is happening with this red line. If we want to talk about the Federal budget deficit, let's talk about where it really is. Let's talk about the red line, which has gone from \$1.8 trillion 10 years ago and is projected by the Congressional Budget Office to go to \$5.4 trillion 10 years from now.

Let's not pretend we are balancing the Federal budget by focusing on the part of the Federal budget that is under control, the part that funds our military, national parks, biomedical research, and National Labs. For the last 10 years, it has gone up at about the rate of inflation, and for the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office—including this 2-year budget agreement which only affects the blue line, not the red line—it goes up at the rate of inflation. So I am proud to support it. I believe it is the right thing to do, and when the House sends us a chance to vote for it next week, I hope it gets a big vote from the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, let me just take a few minutes here to share an idea that when we come back next week, we will be talking about the budget. We are going to be talking about making really difficult, very difficult decisions.

I would state that we on the Senate Armed Services Committee have an ad-

vantage over some of the other people because one of the critical areas in the budget coming up is how we treat the military. I think it is important for people to understand that if you are a member of the Armed Services Committee, you are in a position to know something the other Members don't know. It may sound like someone is not doing their job, but that is not true at all.

When you are on the Senate Armed Services Committee, there are hearings that take place. Starting in January, there are posture hearings. Posture hearings normally take about 6 hours a week. In posture hearings, we find out about matters that others just don't have time to find out about unless you are a member of the committee. If you are a member, you are sitting there for 3 hours a week.

I don't say this critically of the previous administration because—I would say, in the Obama administration, the top priority was not defending America. In fact, he established something called parity. Parity meant that for every one dollar put into the military budget, we have to put one dollar into the nonmilitary budget. That had never happened before, at least it had not happened since World War II. At that time, it was established that national defense would be our priority. Every Democrat and every Republican President at that time all the way up until the Obama administration had defending America as the top priority.

What happened during that administration was that we actually had a dramatic reduction. If you use constant dollars, that reduction took place between 2010 and 2015, using constant dollars. For this description, we used 2018 dollars. Going into 2010, it was about \$794 billion. Going into 2015, it was \$586 billion or something like that. So there was about a 25-percent reduction in the defense budget in a 5-year period. That had never happened before in the history of this country. Yet we suffered through, and we paid dearly for it.

A lot of people are not aware of it, unless you are on the Armed Services Committee because we see it. When the current President came in, President Trump, his budget boosted that back up. Now we are talking about real dollars, and it was \$700 billion in fiscal year 2018. Then for fiscal year 2019 it was \$716 billion.

Now we are getting into where we are today in the current budget. We passed a defense authorization bill, and in it we actually came out agreeing that we had to get to \$750 billion. Someone might ask why. We had something called the National Defense Commission report. It was a document that was a good document that talked about how we were going to need to appropriate because during the Obama administration we saw China and Russia become peer competitors in many areas. In fact, they ended up with some things better than ours. Let me give an example. Artillery during that period

of time for both China and Russia had us outranged and outgunned. How many people know that? People assume America has the best of everything. Well, that was true up until this time.

Air and defense, there were only two Active-Duty battalions with no new technological advancements. Nothing happened during that time. That allowed China and Russia to start creeping up and getting ahead of us.

On nuclear triad modernization, we had no modernization increases at that time, but Russia and China did. In fact, China actually has today a nuclear triad, and Russia is actually building one. The U.S. defense against electronic warfare—we didn't have that kind of a defense. With Russia, you can remember what happened in Ukraine.

Hypersonic weapons is the newest thing that people talk about. It is a type of weapon system that moves five times the speed of sound. It is the weapon system of the future. Prior to the past administration, prior to the Obama administration, we were ahead in our research on hypersonic weapons, but by the end of that time and up until this new administration came in, we were actually behind Russia and China. I only say that because we really took a hit.

The only time—we have had three opportunities, one in fiscal year 2018, one in fiscal year 2019, and then another on the budget we are going to be voting on this coming week. That was our opportunity to catch up.

I would just say this: If you are on the Armed Services Committee, you have an obligation because you are in a unique position of knowing the efficiencies that we have. Others don't have that. Many of the Members take the time and they find out that they can get this done.

But we are in a position where—General Dunford, as an example, said that we have lost our qualitative and our quantitative edge in artillery. We are actually outnumbered 5 to 1 by China and 10 to 1 by Russia. In air and missile defense, China and Russia have weapons that prevent access—we call them SAMs, surface-to-air missiles. Nuclear modernization—no real U.S. modernization took place during that time. We had some of our top people admitting that we had deficiencies, and we quickly tried to correct them.

Along came fiscal year 2018. In fiscal year 2018, we got back up to a \$700 billion budget, and we started working on things. We had the manual. It is a manual I normally bring down with me to the floor when we talk about this because this is something that everyone agreed on as the manual was put together. It was the NDS Commission report. It was put together by 6 Democrats and 6 Republicans—all experts in national defense—and everyone agreed that would be our blueprint to pull us out of where we were at that time, and it was working. We were on schedule to do it. We are currently on schedule with this budget.

It says that while we are rebuilding our military, we should be anticipating that we have to increase our military spending by between 3 percent and 5 percent over this period of time. That is a net increase. Well, the budget we came out with in the defense authorization bill was \$750 billion, and it was a budget that almost gets us there but not quite.

The President's budget agreement that came out the other day has a figure of \$738 billion. That is very close to where we are supposed to be. It is a 2-year budget, and that is a good thing for the military. Those of us on the Defense Committee understand that. So that brings that \$738 up to \$740.5 billion for 2021, so it is very close to the \$750 billion defense authorization.

I only say that because that makes it more important for anyone who is serving on the Senate Armed Services Committee to be in a position to know what I just said. And that is something that most people don't know, and I don't believe that most of the Members of this body know, but those who are on the committee do know it. We have to keep in mind that this budget is going to be the only way that we are going to be able to do what needs to be done.

This is the short version. I will come back and talk more this coming Monday and give a lot more details than I gave now. I will say this: I would encourage any member of the Senate Armed Services Committee to understand that they are in a position to know what the problem is, and a lot of other people do not know this. I would anticipate that members of the committee would be in that unique position to know and would be supporting a budget that gives us enough room to get back into position to recover from the losses that we took from the previous administration. That is what is at stake. That is what we are anticipating. I would anticipate that our members from the committee should be doing that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNT). The Senator from Ohio.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor this afternoon to talk about an issue that I have come to this floor other times to speak about, and that is the drug crisis we face in this country. In fact, I am told that over the last 3 years, I have now come to the floor 58 times to address this topic—to talk about the opioid crisis, talk about the new resurgence of crystal meth, and talk about what we can do about it.

I will tell you, during those 3 years, we made a lot of progress, not just in talking about this issue but doing something about it. We put new policies in place at the Federal level for better prevention, better treatment, better longer term recovery, and to also help our first responders—specifically, to give them access to this mir-

acle drug naloxone, which reverses the effect of overdose.

Congress passed legislation, like the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, the Cures legislation, and the STOP Act. We have provided actually more than \$4 billion of additional funding for these programs—particularly for treatment—over just the last few years. In Ohio alone, we have received \$140 million through CARA and Cures since they were signed into law. That money has gone toward innovative, evidence-based programs that are actually making a difference. We had to do this because this crisis has gripped our country in the worst drug epidemic ever. More people are now dying every year from overdoses from these drugs than died in the entire Vietnam conflict, as an example. We have never seen anything quite this bad, so we responded, as we should have, at the national level to a national crisis.

Working with States, localities, nonprofits, people out there in the trenches doing the hard work, we are beginning to make a difference. Last week, the Centers for Disease Control—CDC—issued a report with their latest statistics on overdose deaths. While drug overdose deaths are still way too high, they show we are actually seeing a reduction.

By the way, this is the first time we have seen a reduction in opioid overdose deaths in more than 8 years. Think about that. Every year for 8 years, we have seen increases in deaths, to the point that we had over 70,000 people a year dying of overdoses in 2017. In 2018—we now have the numbers in from CDC—it went from roughly 71,000 to roughly 68,000. Again, that is way too high. No one should be satisfied with that. But after increases every year, to have a 4-percent decrease nationally shows that we are beginning to turn the tide. Let's keep doing what we are doing. We cannot pull back now. If we do, it will just go back up again. Actually, it is the first time since 1990, I am told, that nationwide overdoses from any kind of drugs—opioids and other things—have decreased in a calendar year. That is the first time since 1990.

In Ohio, we did even better from 2017 to 2018. We had more than a 4-percent drop; we actually had a 22-percent drop in Ohio. That is partly because my home State has been ground zero for this. Like West Virginia, Kentucky, and other States, we have been hit really hard. To go 22 percent below where we were the previous year is progress, and we should be proud of that. Still, we are seeing overdose rates that are way too high. Overall, around the country, 33 States had reductions.

As I said earlier, the area where we made the most progress is in combating opioids, partly because of legislation we passed here. Particularly, we tried to address this issue of prescription drugs, heroin, and fentanyl.

The Washington Post recently published a stunning analysis showing why

it is so important that we continue to push back and how we got here. They showed that for the 6 years between 2006 and 2012, there was an absolutely unbelievably high number of shipments of prescription pain medications. Oxycodone and hydrocodone were the ones they focused on, which account for three-quarters of the total opioid pill shipments to pharmacies.

In a single CVS pharmacy right outside of Cleveland, OH, more than 6.4 million pills were delivered during that 6-year period. Think about that. In one small pharmacy, there were over 6 million pills. Overall, the Post found that over that period, more than 3.6 billion prescription pain pills were supplied to Ohio. That is "billion" with a "b." That is an astounding number. That means that during those 6 years, there were approximately 313 opioid prescription pain pills prescribed for every single man, woman, and child in Ohio. That is what we are talking about here.

Obviously, this was used as a way for people to take these pills and spread them, not just in Ohio but in other places, causing immense harm because people got addicted to these pills and turned to heroin and fentanyl. Many of these people are people who not just have an addiction but end up having overdoses, and many of them died.

This week, the largest civil trial in U.S. history will begin in my home State of Ohio. I think it is appropriate that it is in Ohio. This will consolidate cases from around the country. More than 2,000 cities, counties, Native American Tribes, and others will sue some of the biggest pharmaceutical companies and major distributors for their role in this drug crisis. The pharmaceutical companies and the distributors are going to be sued in court in Ohio through a consolidated case. This is the biggest civil trial, they say, in the history of our country.

Two of the Ohio plaintiff counties—Cuyahoga and Summit—have been among the areas in my State that were hardest hit by opioids. No wonder they are part of this lawsuit. In 2016, the death rate from pharmaceuticals—opioids, painkillers—in Cuyahoga County was 3.26 times the national average. In Summit County, so many people died from overdoses that a mobile morgue had to be created in order to help process the bodies. I was there in Summit County during that time period. They actually had to bring in a mobile unit to be able to deal with all the overdose deaths.

The more we find out about the sheer number of pills these drug companies pumped into the United States—more than 76 billion overall during that period—the more it is clear that lawsuits like this are going to be necessary to get to the bottom of what happened and require these entities to help those who were affected by these pain pills. A lot of these people turned to other substances that were more accessible and less expensive, like heroin, but had

started with an addiction to pain medication. We are pushing back against the opioid pill industry that flourished for too long within our borders. That is a positive sign.

While the CDC showed an overall decrease in overdose deaths, as I talked about earlier, there are some troubling trends that have continued.

First, while the number of opioid overdose deaths fell, the number of overdose deaths fell related to synthetic opioids—specifically, cheap and dangerous fentanyl—actually rose. Heroin and prescription drugs went down, but actually, for the synthetic opioid—which is 50 times more powerful than heroin and unfortunately produced overseas and shipped into our country—those numbers actually rose. Fentanyl deaths actually rose. In fact, last year, more deaths were attributed to fentanyl than to heroin and prescription drugs combined.

Fentanyl is the big new danger. There is overall progress, but fentanyl is getting worse. We had a report last week of a single kilo of fentanyl being seized in Middletown, OH, which is enough of the drug to kill more than half a million people. This was in our community, Middletown, OH. That is enough of the drug to kill more than half a million people.

We are beginning to push back on fentanyl, as some of you know, through legislation, including the STOP Act, which got passed in this Chamber and in the House. This is doing a better job with keeping this poison from coming through our U.S. mail system, which is where most of it has been coming from. Our own postal system has been the conduit for this poison. Most of it is coming from one country—China. It is produced in chemical labs there by unscrupulous scientists and chemists and then sent through the mail.

The 2019 audit by the inspector general of the Postal Service found that the Postal Service identified and pulled a package requested by Customs and Border Protection 88 percent of the time. This was an improvement from only 79 percent of the time the year before, in 2017, and only 67 percent of the time in 2016, but it is still not complying with the STOP Act. The STOP Act says 100 percent, not 88 percent.

Again, why is that important?

This stuff is getting in through the mail. If the U.S. Customs and Border Protection can identify these packages and screen them and pull them offline, less of that poison will come into our neighborhoods. It also raises the price of this product, which is part of the problem right now—that it is not just powerful and deadly but also inexpensive.

Overall, it was said that the Postal Service missed a number of packages—12 percent—due to operational errors. We can't afford these operational errors. It is too important.

We need to ensure that all packages that enter the United States have the kind of information we need to be able

to track potentially harmful packages once they get inside our border. This is advance electronic data. It is not required everywhere, but it needs to be.

The STOP Act requires the Postal Service to do that, including with 100 percent of the packages coming in from China. It required it, by the way, by December 31 of last year. Yet the Postal Service just informed us on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, on which we did this work—where we investigated this over many, many months—that it has only received data on 52.8 percent of all of our international packages and only 70.7 percent on those from China for 2018. In March of this year, 2019, it was up to 57 percent and 78 percent. Let's get to 100 percent from China. This legislation requires 70 percent from other countries. There is no excuse for not meeting this. Again, it is the law of the land. So, while it is improving, the process is taking too long, and it has failed to meet the requirements in the STOP Act.

The next big milestone, by the way, in the implementation of the law requires the Postal Service to begin refusing foreign shipments without there being the required advance electronic data that reads where it is from, what is in it, and where it is going. This is to apply to any package to be received after December 31, 2020. At the end of next year, if it is not providing the data, we will refuse the package.

A lot of people have expressed concern about that to me. "My gosh. This is going to stop international freight back and forth." No. It is going to require the Postal Service to do what it should be doing already, which is to require these shippers to do what they should be doing, and that is to provide the data. It is not hard, and it is not expensive. Again, most people are doing it. By the way, FedEx, DHL, and UPS—the private carriers—have done it for years. They have done it based on the law that passed after the 9/11 attacks. It is our post office that has not. Sometimes it has viewed this, apparently, as its having a competitive advantage in its not having to require that. Do you know what? It is too important to us and to the deaths that are occurring from fentanyl not to require that.

We have to improve the screening in the mail, and we are, and we will continue to make progress on that. Of course, that is not all we have to do. More fentanyl is now coming from other places, particularly from across our southern border. This is very concerning because we have gaps on our southern border right now. They say that between 40 and 60 percent of the Border Patrol agents are being pulled off the border to deal with the very real humanitarian crisis on the border.

I was there a week ago last Friday, and I had an opportunity to speak to a number of Border Patrol agents who were processing individuals and dealing with the humanitarian needs of a surge

of families and children, including those who were claiming asylum. We need to have these people attending to the humanitarian needs and processing these individuals. Yet I will tell you, when I talked to the Border Patrol agents about it, that was not where they wanted to be. They want to be doing their jobs because they know these drugs are coming in when they are not out there with a watchful eye on our border.

Unfortunately, we are in a situation right now where we need more humanitarian aid, which we have finally provided, thank goodness. We also need more help on the border itself to be able to close some of these gaps. I want to be sure that we are, indeed, dealing with both issues. We can and should.

The drug smugglers who are affiliated with Mexican cartels are pretty smart. They know where there are gaps. They take advantage of them and bring in more fentanyl. Last year, Customs and Border Protection seized about 1,800 pounds of fentanyl at the border. In the first half of this year alone, it seized more than 2,000 pounds of fentanyl. This year, we are headed toward apprehending double the fentanyl at the border. I will tell you we don't know how much is coming in. Nobody does.

Because of these gaps and because of the Border Patrol's having been pulled off the border to deal with the very real crisis down there with regard to the humanitarian issue and the flux of people coming in, there are more gaps. The numbers of those shipments that have been apprehended have been bad enough—more than double this year. It has been enough fentanyl to kill millions of people, and it is probably worse than that.

This fentanyl is increasingly being laced into other drugs by the cartels. The fentanyl makes you so likely to become addicted that they put it in other things, including crystal meth, including cocaine, including heroin. Individuals who consume anything right now that is a street drug might be unknowingly ingesting this incredibly toxic drug fentanyl also and risking their lives because of the overdose deaths that are associated with it.

In Ohio, the number of overdose deaths attributed to fentanyl-laced cocaine and methamphetamines has increased dramatically. As an example, Columbus Public Health actually released a public alert just this week that urged anyone who uses drugs or knows someone who uses drugs to have naloxone, a miracle drug—some people call it Narcan—that reverses the effects of the overdose from opioids. They say you have to have this miracle drug on hand because of the fentanyl poisoning that is going on in Columbus. Already in 2019, 740 doses of Narcan have been issued in response to overdoses in one town alone, Toledo, OH.

This issue of fentanyl is very real. It is affecting our communities in new ways, and we have to be able to respond flexibly to what is happening. It remains a dangerous threat.

Also complicating the recovery process is the continued resurgence of psychostimulants, particularly crystal meth. Again, crystal meth is coming from—where?—across the border, from Mexico. You will probably remember that at one time in your communities, there was talk about meth labs. You may have seen some coverage of that, and you may have had some meth labs in your neighborhood. There are horrible environmental issues, obviously, in the producing of methamphetamines, which are so dangerous. Guess what. There are no more meth labs in your neighborhood. That is the good news. The bad news is, there are no meth labs because this stuff that comes in from Mexico is cheaper and more powerful, more devastating, and more damaging to our communities. So it is a concern.

The latest CDC data on overdose deaths—particularly with regard to opioids—is very hopeful, but the overdose deaths by psychostimulants and cocaine continue to increase. That is because, again, fentanyl is being mixed into these psychostimulants. Methamphetamine deaths increased by nearly 30 percent, and 42 percent of all overdose deaths last year were directly attributable to cocaine, psychostimulants like meth, or both mixed together. That is the new problem, and we have to address it.

As we have continued to fight opioid abuse, I recently introduced a bill, entitled “Combating Meth and Cocaine Act,” in order to address this resurgence and to be sure that here in Congress we are being flexible in responding to it and not waiting until we have another huge drug crisis here of a new way to mix drugs or a new resurgence of crystal meth. To date, grants provided by the 21st Century Cures Act, which is now called the State opioid response grants, have been used to increase access to naloxone—again, a very important drug—as well as to long-term addiction treatment and support services. Yet, for all the good these grants have done, they can't be used to address the crisis beyond opioids, which ignores the underground reality, at least in my State and in so many other States.

Earlier this year, for example, I participated in a roundtable discussion with leaders in Knox County, and I do this around the State on a regular basis. In Knox County, the prosecutor's office estimated that 80 to 90 percent of all drug incidents now involve crystal meth—methamphetamines. They told me they have been able to use the State opioid response grants to help with the treatment and recovery services but that they are not effective with regard to meth because there is not an effective way to treat meth with drugs, as there is with opioids. There is

not an effective way to use the Narcan with meth, as there is with opioids. So we need to be more flexible in providing these communities with the help they need to combat this new resurgence. Our legislation will allow the State opioid response grants to be used for programs that focus on methamphetamines and on cocaine usage. More flexibility is important.

We know these funds are making a difference, so the bill will also reauthorize the State opioid response grants for 5 years, which will give some certainty by providing the \$500 million annually that will be needed to ensure there will be a stable funding stream to go to these innovative programs in the States. This is a simple, commonsense change. It will allow State and local organizations the flexibility they need to fight what is quickly becoming a two-front war on addiction—opioids but also psychostimulants that are coming back with a vengeance.

The latest data from the CDC is a promising sign that we can and will recover from the drug crisis if we continue to work to give those in need the help they need to get back on their feet. We also need to ensure that we don't rest on our laurels as cartels continue to innovate themselves and try different angles.

There is so much money in this that these deadly drugs will continue to come unless we show the same kind of flexibility when responding. If they can, they are going to continue to send drugs through the postal system. They are going to continue to send them across the southern border. Fentanyl, cocaine, and meth have shown themselves to be continuing public health threats, and we have to keep working—all of us here on a bipartisan basis—to ensure that State and local governments get the resources they need to help stem the tide.

The Federal Government has been a better partner over the past few years with our States, with our localities, and with our nonprofits that are there in the trenches, doing the hard work. We can't give up now. The numbers from the CDC are hopeful with regard to opioids, but that just means we need to redouble our efforts to ensure that we do not now back off. We cannot take our eye off the ball. We have to continue to focus on what we are doing and then add to that more flexible responses to the new resurgence of fentanyl being mixed with meth and crystal meth coming in directly from Mexico. This new drug reality is one that must be met with the same kind of innovative response we have responded with here in the last few years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise after 10 years of being in the Senate and after having endured speech after speech after speech on this floor that has claimed the Republican Party is

the party of fiscal discipline. It was politics that created something during the depths of the worst recession, called the tea party, which rallied all over America to stop what it said was runaway spending.

When I arrived here, I actually believed that the Republican Party was a fiscally responsible party, that there was some principle behind it. I know better today. I was naive. It is all about politics.

There have been five budget deals since 2013 between Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL and whoever has happened to be in the White House. These deals were meant to overcome the idiocy of the across-the-board cuts that were created by the sequestration—which nobody in America understands but which are basically across-the-board cuts on spending—that otherwise would have been investments in your family, maybe, or investments in our military. They were agreed to as part of a fiscal cliff deal in the dark of night, at 2 o'clock in the morning, by nobody—literally nobody—who had actually read the bill. Ever since then, politicians in Washington have been making deals to try to overcome it.

When President Obama was President, this is how much money he was allowed to spend. Since Donald Trump has been President, this is the money that the Republicans have spent. This red is defense, and the blue is non-defense.

Under President Obama the deals increased by an average of \$33 billion above the sequester. The two deals under Donald Trump increased spending by \$154 billion, four times as much—four times as much—at a moment when the President is saying our economy is the best it has ever been in American history.

The result of this is that under Donald Trump the deficit has increased by 15 percent each year. The deficit just between last year and this year is up by 23 percent as a result of the Republican majority in the Senate and Donald Trump.

We are on track to run \$1 trillion deficits every year as far as the eye can see. That is after 10 years of economic growth and unemployment below 4 percent.

At no time in our history have deficits been this large outside of a major war or a recession, which brings me to my second slide.

This is the annual spending growth around here. This is the annual spending growth around here of defense and nondefense. They are both in here.

Under President Obama, in his first term, the spending went up by 3 percent. We were in the worst recession since the Great Depression. He had to pass the Recovery Act. That is in this number. That is in this number. It was at the depths of the worst recession since the Great Depression. Three million Americans lost their homes, and 9 million Americans lost their jobs. We had a 10-percent unemployment rate—

not a 4-percent rate, not a 3 and change, but a 10-percent rate. In the name of fiscal responsibility, Republicans did nothing except berate the President for trying to save the economy and for what he was trying to do.

I will come to that in a moment.

This includes the Recovery Act. Overall growth—annual spending growth—grew by 3 percent during President Obama's first term. It fell by 2 percent during President Obama's second term.

It has gone up by 4 percent during Trump's first term. It has increased more under this Republican President. Admittedly, he is not a conservative. It has grown more under this Republican President than it did when President Obama was trying to save the economy during the worst recession since the Great Depression. This 3 percent number includes the Recovery Act. The Republicans are now growing government spending by more than that—by more than that.

Here is what they said when they wouldn't lift a finger during the depths of the worst recession. Congressman MIKE PENCE, before he was Vice President, said:

We the people do not consent to runaway Federal spending. We the people do not consent to the notion that we can borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing America.

He said that to a tea party rally here in Washington, DC, that was here to stop runaway spending.

Where are they today? It is worse today than it ever was under President Obama. It is far worse, not a little bit worse, because not included on this slide are the tax cuts that have never paid for themselves and are not paying for themselves here.

Donald Trump and the Republicans have created \$2 trillion of deficit spending because of the tax cuts and \$2 trillion of deficit spending because of the spending.

By the way, they are not actually spending this money, in a sense. They are borrowing all of it from our children. They have not paid for a dollar of it—not one dollar. They are borrowing it from the pages who are here. They are borrowing it from the children of cops, teachers, and firefighters—that is who they are borrowing it from—to give tax cuts to rich people, to make our economic inequality greater.

Congressman Mick Mulvaney, now the President's Chief of Staff, talking about the Obama administration's budget at the time, said:

It's hard to explain how detached from reality that is, to think that the country can spend another \$1.6 trillion when it doesn't have the means. It means either you haven't been paying attention or you don't care.

He is the President's Chief of Staff. He is the President's Budget Director.

If that was runaway spending, how is this not runaway spending?

The junior Senator from Texas said:

The debt is out of control. And, it is jeopardizing the future for our kids. I have got two little kids who are 4 and 2.

He lectured the President.

And, the idea of handing them a \$16 trillion debt, I think is immoral.

Really? What about \$24 trillion? What about \$30 trillion? Is that more moral than \$16 trillion? Really?

Now, former Speaker Paul Ryan said: "We will end up with a Greece-like situation on our hands."

"A debt crisis is coming to the country."

That is what he said here.

Admittedly, he left in the middle of a government shutdown, never to come back to Washington, DC—a fitting end to a decade of fiscal fights and shutdowns and government closures, all done in the name of fiscal responsibility, never actually achieving it and—never, ever actually achieving it—only for the opportunity to spend like this.

I can't tell you the number of times I have heard about this on this floor:

The debt and the deficit are just getting out of control, and the administration is still pumping through billions and trillions of new spending.

Paul Ryan said:

Our debt is out of control. What was a fiscal challenge is now a fiscal crisis. We cannot deny it; instead we must, as Americans confront it responsibly. And that is exactly what the Republicans pledged to do.

That is exactly what the Republicans pledged to do. They immobilized our government. They shut it down over and over and over in the name of fiscal responsibility—no help to the economy or the next generation. That is the farthest thought from their mind.

After years of obstruction in the name of fiscal responsibility, they nominated Donald Trump, who promised during the campaign to deliver a giant, beautiful, massive tax cut and borrowed all of the money for it from working people in this country.

There was a mayor in Indiana who wrote a piece about that in the paper that I thought was so instructive.

He said: That tax plan would be tantamount to my going to my city council and saying that I want to go borrow more money than we have ever borrowed before in the history of our town, and I am not going to use it to invest in roads or bridges or the sewers or anything else, and I am just going to take the money we borrowed that our kids are going to have to give back, and I am going to give it to the richest neighborhood in my town.

He said they would have asked: What have you been smoking?

He promised to pass "one of the largest increases in national defense spending in American history" and "not touch Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid."

He said he would eliminate not only the deficit. This is Donald Trump, the candidate whom the Republicans voted for, whom FOX News, which is in theory the conservative channel, has supported like an organ of the State, with hosts who claim they are fiscally responsible. But he promised to elimi-

nate not only the deficit but the entire national debt—that immoral debt of \$16 trillion that is now climbing to \$30 trillion.

And the way he was going to do that was by "vigorously eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government, ending redundant government programs, and growing the economy," as well as by "renegotiating all of our [debt] deals."

He hasn't renegotiated one. He spent more time failing to get a deal with the leader of North Korea than trying to address this challenge.

Donald Trump said:

It can be done. . . . it will take place and it will go relatively quickly. If you have the right people, like in the agencies and the various people that do the balancing . . . you can cut the numbers by two pennies and three pennies and balance a budget quickly and have a stronger and better country.

This is the President of the United States of America.

That is ridiculous. That is ridiculous, but it is no more ridiculous than the history of the Republican Party, the supposedly fiscally conservative party—what a joke.

Going back to 2001, the last time we had a surplus in America, Bill Clinton was President. He was a Democrat. He had a \$5 trillion projected surplus over the decade—unimaginable today. It is unimaginable today, but politicians like us were having discussions about what to do with the surplus, what to do with abundance, how to make Social Security solvent, how to give the middle class a real tax cut, not a fake tax cut that is masquerading and covering up the tax cut for rich people.

But we did none of that, and, instead, George Bush, who followed Bill Clinton, cut taxes in 2001. Almost all of the benefit went to wealthy people. He cut taxes in 2003, and both times it was just like Donald Trump said and the Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL said both times. They said: Oh, don't worry about it. They will pay for themselves.

A lie, a lie, and the number is in the math. It is not about philosophy. This isn't about ideology. This is about the math, and everybody in America could see it because that is what produced the \$16 trillion that Paul Ryan said was so immoral, \$8 trillion ago and on the way to \$30 trillion in debt.

By the way, it is important to know that when this Congress voted for those tax cuts in 2003 that were not paid for, the money was all borrowed by the sons and daughters of working people in America. We had troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. So we didn't even have the decency while we had people at war to pay for those wars or to say to the American people: We need to pay for those wars. No, we are not going to pay for those wars, and we are going to borrow the money from America to give tax cuts to rich people.

Then, President Bush, on top of that, seeking reelection, passed Medicare Part D, the drug program for seniors, and paid for none of that either. All

that money is from our children—all of it—and there has never been an effort to pay for it since.

Then, because of their lax regulatory oversight of the housing market, the economy collapsed. The economy collapsed, and Barack Obama was handed not a \$5 trillion surplus but a \$1.2 trillion deficit from the Republicans, from George Bush. During the course of his Presidency, we had to weather the worst recession since the Great Depression. The worst it ever got around here was \$1.5 trillion on the deficit, and the other side called him a Bolshevik and a Socialist. Well-meaning people from all over Wall Street and other places came down here and said: Fix the debt. Fix the debt.

Where are they today? Where are they today?

By the time he left, President Obama had cut the deficit by more than half—by more than half.

Every one of these deals has been cut by MITCH MCCONNELL, every single one. So it didn't surprise me at all this week that he was reported in the Washington Post to have said to the President that no politician has ever lost an election spending more money. No politician has ever lost an election spending more money, said the Republican majority leader to the President. I can't think of a more Bolshevik statement than that, to use terms that the other side has been using for 10 years. I can't think of a more irresponsible position than that when we are not in the depths of a recession, when 10 million people haven't lost their jobs, when the economy, according to the President, is the best economy we have ever had.

This is the moment we should be securing our future. This is the moment we should be preparing for another foreign engagement. Because of these deals that have been led by MITCH MCCONNELL, the Republican leader from Kentucky, when you add it all up, not only do we have this extraordinary deficit that we have never seen in the country's history—

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNET. But since 2001, we have cut taxes by \$5 trillion. We borrowed all of that money from our children, and almost all of the benefit went to the wealthiest people in America. We spent \$5.6 trillion on wars in the Middle East. We didn't pay for a single dollar of it. That is \$11 trillion, \$12 trillion that we could have spent to fix every road and bridge in America, that could have fixed every single airport in America that needs it, that could have made Social Security solvent for my children's generation and for the other children of the people who came out here and said: We are here to immobilize the Democratic President in the name of fiscal responsibility. But now we know the level of their fiscal hypocrisy. It knows no end.

If there is one benefit of this—if there is one benefit of this, the American people are—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. BENNET. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601 to be General: GEN Mark A. Milley.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Milley nomination?

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 230 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Alexander	Duckworth	McSally
Baldwin	Durbin	Menendez
Barrasso	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennet	Ernst	Murphy
Blackburn	Feinstein	Murray
Blumenthal	Fischer	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Peters
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Braun	Grassley	Reed
Brown	Hassan	Risch
Burr	Hawley	Roberts
Cantwell	Heinrich	Romney
Capito	Hirono	Rosen
Cardin	Hoeven	Rounds
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Casey	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Schatz
Collins	Jones	Schumer
Coons	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	King	Shaheen
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sinema
Crapo	Manchin	Smith
Cruz	Markey	Stabenow
Daines	McConnell	Sullivan

Tester	Udall	Wicker
Thune	Van Hollen	Wyden
Tillis	Warner	Young
Toomey	Whitehouse	

NAYS—1

Merkley

NOT VOTING—10

Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Gillibrand	Leahy	Warren
Harris	Moran	
Isakson	Perdue	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority whip.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday we confirmed two more excellent judges in the Senate. Despite Democratic obstruction, we continue to move forward on confirming nominees to the Federal bench.

Some of our Democratic colleagues have criticized the amount of time the Senate spends on judges. We have spent a substantial amount of time on judges because we have had to.

Back in the day, most of the judicial nominees we are considering would have been confirmed without the time-consuming cloture vote process. By this point in President Obama's first term, Republicans had required cloture votes on just three—three—of President Obama's judicial nominees. Let's compare that to today.

As of yesterday, July 24, Democrats had required cloture votes on a staggering 94 judicial nominees—94—to 3 at this same point under President Obama.

It is not because they are fiercely opposed to all of these nominees. In fact, again and again, Democrats have turned around and voted for the very same judges they delayed.

Just a couple of weeks ago in the Senate, we confirmed three district court judges by huge bipartisan margins: 78 to 15, 80 to 14, and 85 to 10. Clearly, these were not nominees that Democrats bitterly opposed. Yet Democrats insisted on the same old delaying cloture vote tactic they have used with so many judicial nominees.

I, too, am frustrated that we have had to spend a lot of time on judges. I

miss the days when uncontroversial nominees regularly passed without cloture votes, but if my Democratic colleagues are going to insist on delaying the vast majority of nominations, we are going to have to keep spending time on judges because, let's remember, we are not doing these nominations for fun. This is part of our job. We are working to fill a substantial number of vacancies on the Federal bench.

Despite the Senate's efforts, the vacancy rate currently stands at 13.8 percent—higher than the rates faced by President Obama, President George W. Bush, and President Clinton at this point in their first terms.

Vacancies on the Federal bench have consequences. Primarily, they result in long waits to get cases heard, which serves nobody.

It would be nice if my colleagues across the aisle would abandon their delaying tactics on noncontroversial nominees and speed up the process of filling these vacancies, but, regardless, Republicans will continue moving forward with judicial nominees.

I am very proud of the judges we are confirming. We are putting excellent Federal judges on the bench who are committed to upholding the law. That sounds like a pretty obvious requirement for a judge—a commitment to upholding the law—but too often it seems like many on the left would prefer activist judges who act as superlegislators, rewriting laws they disagree with when the law doesn't reach a result that fits with Democrats' political opinions. Those kinds of judges—judges who move beyond the law when the law doesn't line up with their political agenda—are not a good thing for anybody.

Sure, it might seem nice when an activist judge who shares your political opinions reaches outside the plain meaning of the statute and rules for your preferred outcome, but what happens when that same judge reaches beyond the law to your detriment? What protections do you have if the law is no longer the highest authority? The answer is none. You don't have any protection because at that point the judge, not the law, has become the supreme authority, and you are at the mercy of his or her personal opinions.

Security, justice, equality under law, these principles can only be maintained as long as we have judges who are committed to upholding the law as it is written and not as they would like it to be.

If we have bad laws, we can and should change them, but any changes should be made by the people's elected representatives, as our Constitution dictates. They should not be made by unelected judges. Judges are meant to interpret the law, not make it. I am proud we have been putting judges on the bench who will uphold the rule of law in this country by interpreting the law as it is written, regardless of their personal opinions.

As I said earlier, we confirmed two excellent judicial nominees this week. Unfortunately, one ran into some Democratic opposition during the confirmation process because he was Catholic. That is right. Apparently, the fact that he takes his faith seriously enough—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will suspend.

The Senate will be in order. Take your conversations outside of the Chamber.

The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Apparently, the fact that he takes his faith seriously enough to participate in a Catholic charitable group, the Knights of Columbus, is enough to make him suspect as a judge.

I had hoped we were done with Democrats' flirtation with religious tests for public office when they questioned the fitness of Judge Amy Coney Barrett because she takes her Catholic faith seriously, but apparently Democrats think it is perfectly legitimate to suggest that you can't be both a person of faith and a nominee for the U.S. judiciary.

Let me just remind my colleagues what article VI of the Constitution has to say about that. Article VI states: "No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." I repeat: "No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

It is deeply troubling that we have Democrats in the U.S. Senate suggesting that religious faith disqualifies you from public office. If Democrats are using their objections to these candidates' religious faith as cover for the fact that Democrats don't want to confirm anyone who doesn't share their most extreme political opinions, that is deeply troubling too.

Religious freedom is a bedrock principle of this Nation. Our Founders considered it so important that it is the very first freedom mentioned in the Bill of Rights. By freedom of religion, they didn't mean it is OK to pray or have religious beliefs if you do it quietly inside your home; they meant freedom to practice your faith in the public square, even if that means having different political opinions from Democrats.

I hope Judge Buescher is the last nominee who will have his fitness for public office questioned simply because he chooses to live out his faith. I was glad to vote to confirm him yesterday, and I look forward to confirming more qualified judicial nominees in the near future.

I hope the Democrats will drop their delaying tactics and join us as we work to fill these important vacancies on the Federal bench.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate Finance Committee marked up a legislative package that was designed to address the high prescription drug costs, which have become a burden to Americans of all ages. This is part of a bipartisan effort to make targeted reforms to our healthcare system in order to lower costs for patients and taxpayers without interfering with the free market or the beneficial innovation that comes from it.

Last month, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and the Judiciary Committee passed legislative packages that were designed to support this goal. This morning, the Finance Committee passed a package called the Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act. This legislation looks specifically at reducing prescription drug prices, particularly out-of-pocket costs, for seniors and children through Medicare and Medicaid reforms.

I have heard a lot from my constituents in Texas about the impact of these high costs.

Bob from San Angelo told me that both he and his wife have Medicare Part D and are struggling to stretch their retirement incomes far enough to cover the expenses for their prescription drugs. He told me, each month, they pay nearly \$800 for Medicare and Medicare supplements. On top of that, they are strapped with high prescription drug costs. In the first 4½ months of this year, Bob said they spent more than \$1,600 on his wife's medication alone. For seniors who live on fixed incomes, these high costs can simply be untenable.

Then there is Michael, another one of my constituents, who told me about his continued struggle to cover the cost of his medication. He said: "It feels like we are being taken advantage of because they know we have to take these drugs."

These individuals have been paying into this system for decades, and it is high time we look at ways to reduce the financial strain and provide some relief.

Now, coming up with policies that will lower out-of-pocket costs is not easy. The whole drug pricing regime is enormously complex—frankly, it is opaque—particularly the relationships between pharmacy benefit managers and drug manufacturers, but we need to work hard at this effort to lower costs in Medicare and Medicaid and to decrease the high cost of prescription drugs even in the commercial markets.

I appreciate the commitment of Chairman GRASSLEY and Ranking Member WYDEN to identify potential reforms, and I believe the package that was voted out of the Finance Committee this morning is a step in the

right direction. This is not a statement of endorsement of the legislation as it has come out of the committee. A lot of work needs to be done, particularly a lot of work in order to reconcile the different approaches of the different committees—the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and the Judiciary Committee—because the last thing we want to do is to go through this arduous, complex legislative exercise only to find out that we have failed to lower out-of-pocket costs for American consumers or that we have introduced some other unintended consequence that makes things worse and not better.

The journey a drug takes from research and development to manufacturing, to pharmacy shelves, and eventually into our medicine cabinets is enormously complicated.

As I said, once a consumer has purchased a drug, figuring out who gets what part of each dollar requires—well, I was going to say it requires a Ph.D. It requires even more than that because you may need to hire an ex-FBI agent to try to track down what percentage of each dollar each of the players in the prescription drug field actually gets. As a consumer, this is particularly alarming because we don't really have any idea of whether we are paying a fair price or who is profiting and at what point or whether people are doing things that benefit their bottom lines. They don't actually add value to the system. Ultimately, they end up costing consumers more out of pocket.

When it comes to Medicare and Medicaid, it is doubly concerning because, in most cases, these prescriptions are being at least partially subsidized by taxpayer dollars. So we need to shine a bright light on the reasons behind these high costs and price increases to make sure patients aren't being gouged and to make sure the government—in other words, the taxpayer—isn't being overcharged. That is one of the primary goals of this legislation. It would require manufacturers to report information about price increases to the Department of Health and Human Services as part of that transparency effort.

As I suggested a moment ago, it also looks at the role of pharmacy benefit managers who are the intermediaries who link manufacturers to consumers. They negotiate with the manufacturers to secure rebates, which create a net price, but it doesn't appear that, by and large, this actually flows to the consumer or to the patient. Frequently, it is used, we are told, to keep premiums lower by the health plans. Yet we don't know that for sure because trying to get access to the information is really challenging, and the size of the rebate could mean the difference between a drug's being covered by insurance or not. Oh, by the way, rebates don't help you at all for your copay or for your deductible.

These days, we know, for example, for many Americans, the Affordable Care Act has resulted in sky-high

deductibles and high premiums. That means consumers have to pick up more of the cost at the list price, not at the net price, which is negotiated by the pharmacy benefit managers who work together with the healthcare plans.

I find it very strange, with as big a role as the pharmacy benefit managers play, that we know very little about how they operate or whether they all operate exactly the same or differently. This legislation would require pharmacy benefit managers to disclose details of the discounts of rebates they receive and finally pull back that cloak of secrecy.

I do have concerns about one portion of the bill that was voted out of the Finance Committee this morning, which would require manufacturers to pay a rebate on drug price increases that are higher than the rate of inflation. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the inflation rebate will save \$50 billion for Medicare. It claims it will lower out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries by \$7 billion and lower premiums by \$4 billion.

I asked the head of the CBO this morning: Well, if everybody saves money, who ends up paying more money? It basically comes out of the manufacturer's hide.

This really speaks to my other major concern, and that is that the Federal Government not get into a position in which it is setting prices. We know that when you institute price controls on a commodity—particularly if you are the Federal Government—and when you try to negotiate with somebody, it is not a level playing field. When you negotiate with somebody as the Federal Government, you are literally doing it with a gun to one's head or figuratively doing it with a gun to one's head. It is not a normal give-and-take negotiation. Ultimately, what happens with price controls is it creates scarcity because, at some point, the manufacturer or the producer of that commodity will say: I am not going to produce that at that controlled price by the government. So this is a serious concern.

The CBO also estimates that this rebate would reduce costs for prescription drug benefits offered by commercial insurance plans. Although we don't have a final score by the CBO—this is just a preliminary plan—I will share with you an observation made years ago by Senator Bob Bennett, of Utah, when I first came to the Senate.

He said: The one thing I can tell you about CBO scores is that they are always wrong. I can't tell you if they are too high or too low, but this is part of the complexity of trying to predict the future and how human behavior will affect their calculations and analyses. Sometimes they get it right, and sometimes they get it wrong.

Despite the encouraging estimates, many members of the committee had significant concerns that this policy could lead to higher launch prices or higher out-of-pocket spending. So this

morning in the markup, I supported an amendment by our friend from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY, that would have removed this inflation rebate penalty. Unfortunately, it failed on a tie vote. It is something I don't think I have seen before, in which 14 Senators voted for it and 14 voted against it, but it means the amendment failed.

Here is the problem. There is a delicate balance between preventing price increases, which is something we would all like to do, and still preserving the market-based approach that has made Part D such an overwhelming success. It actually is a government program that works better than we thought it would when it was passed.

I think we need more input before this bill comes to the floor, for there is a lot of work yet to do. As the old adage goes, anything worth doing is worth doing right, and we had better get this right. I think there will be quite a price to pay if we undertake this huge exercise and end up failing to reduce consumers' out-of-pocket costs or creating more problems as a result of unintended consequences. Providing our seniors peace of mind when it comes to their healthcare costs is certainly worth doing right.

So I believe we need to continue refining this proposal to strike a better balance and effectively deliver on our promises. It is important that we not rush this process. There is no artificial deadline. There shouldn't be. That is why the Senate was created, to force deliberation in a body of 100 Senators with challenging rules to actually get things to the President's desk for his signature. But what it should do is force deliberation and force us to do our due diligence to make sure that we are not creating more problems or failing to accomplish our goal.

I told members of the committee this morning that I don't think this bill, as written, is anywhere near ready to be considered on the floor. I asked the chairman and the ranking member to commit to continue working with Members before this does come to the floor, and I was glad that both of them agreed to do so.

While I believe we are making some progress, we better be very careful, and we shouldn't impose on ourselves any artificial deadlines in order to get this thing done and perhaps get it done badly.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, there is a quote that has long been attributed to St. Augustine, who, during his conversion to Christianity, famously uttered a prayer: Lord, help me be chaste. Grant me chastity, but not yet.

The idea behind this is as old as human nature itself, which is that it is easier to have a thought of doing something later than to do that thing now, especially when it is a difficult task.

It is one of the reasons New Year's resolutions often result in a spike, an abrupt increase in gym enrollments and memberships. People develop New Year's resolutions; they decide they are going to lose weight; they are going to exercise more; they are going to eat less. Then it becomes more difficult as time goes by, and perhaps over time, some of them might find it easier to say: Well, I will lose weight later in the year.

After starting the new year off to a good start, they might say: Well, I will lose more weight in the last half of the year. Later in the year it might occur to them that they will lose more weight in the last 2 months of the year. Regardless, as they continue to delay that moment, the task doesn't get easier; it often gets harder.

The budget and spending and debt limit deal that was announced earlier this week reminds me a little bit of this aspect of human nature. It is understandable why this happens. It is especially understandable why it happens in a place where people are elected and where people want to be liked, where supporting greater government spending often results in praise, and calling for even a mild tapping on the brakes often results in rather severe criticism in the press, even by one's own constituents. But that doesn't mean that we can pretend things are different than they really are.

So, yes, you can suspend the debt ceiling, and you can waive budget rules, but you can't suspend or waive or ignore the laws of mathematics.

We have to remember that at a time when we are talking about a significant expansion of the role of the Federal Government, when we are talking about suspending the debt ceiling for an additional 2 years, we are talking about paving the way for us to spend a whole lot more money through the Federal Government than we would otherwise spend.

This is occurring at a time when Americans are already required to work many weeks and, in some cases, many months out of every year just to pay their Federal taxes. In addition to this, after that they are told: By the way, that is not enough.

It is not nearly enough because, for a long time, the Federal Government has been spending a lot more money than it takes in. Lately, it has been to the tune of many hundreds of billions of dollars a year.

We have never in our history brought in more money or as much money into the Federal Government's coffers as we are bringing in right now. We are at the very top of the business cycle. We have nearly record-low unemployment, in the range of roughly 4 percent or a little below, which is, we are told by economists, basically full employment in America. At a time when all of these things seem to be going our way and we are enjoying a period of relative peace in the world and in our country, we have record-breaking deficits, and

this budget and debt ceiling deal would expand the path, would pave the path for even more of that.

That begs the question: If we can't control spending now, when the economy is performing about as well as it possibly can, then when can we?

To borrow a phrase from John F. Kennedy, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Let's talk for a minute about America's history with expanding its debt limit, expanding its debt footprint.

What we see through this chart that I have to my right is that during a number of periods of crisis in American history, we have accumulated more debt—that is, a more-than-average amount of debt—as a percentage of our gross domestic product.

We see various peaks, most of them following and brought about as a result of a major war and, in some cases, some other type of crisis.

We have the Revolutionary War. The Revolutionary War was fought and, mercifully, won, and our debt as a percentage of GDP went down.

It peaked a little bit a few years later when we had to fight the War of 1812. We won that war, too, and then debt as a percentage of our GDP went down. It remained low for many decades.

When we fought the Civil War, it peaked again. It went back to close to 40 percent of our gross domestic product. The Civil War ended, and it went back down.

It peaked again at World War I and then went back down. It peaked to a very significant degree at World War II and then promptly went back down.

See, through this period of time following World War II—the late forties into the fifties—we had a whole lot of revenue coming in. We weren't accumulating new debt, and we were paying off our debt at the same time that our economy was expanding.

Consequently, even though every year didn't result in a balanced budget, our debt held by the public as a Federal Government went down as a percentage of our gross domestic product.

But in each of these instances that I described, there was a reason; there was a distinct, unmistakable, finite reason why these things happened. Once those reasons went away, once we had won the wars in question, our debt as a percentage of our gross domestic product—that is, the volume of economic activity in America—went back down.

We saw a couple of other peaks. We had the Gulf war and a recession in roughly the same period. It resulted in an increase of debt as a percentage of GDP. That war ended, and that recession went away, and it went back down.

Something interesting has been happening. In the last few years, as we came out of the great recession, as we have enjoyed a very significant, historic recovery in our economy, the economy has been expanding, and jobs abound. The economy in which we now

live has more people employed in basically every demographic than we would have considered likely a few years ago. Yet, notwithstanding that fact, our debt as a percentage of our gross domestic product continues to go up.

This graph in some ways even understates the matter relative to where we were at World War II. We hit the peak during World War II at, I believe, 106, 107 percent of gross domestic product. We are not quite at that level yet today by standard metrics, but if you include in this figure not only the debt held by the public—that is, the debt held by those who purchase U.S. security bonds and U.S. Treasury instruments generally—if you add to that the so-called intragovernmental debt, the IOUs the Federal Government has written to Social Security and Medicare to try to make up for funds that Congress wants access to but doesn't have, we are actually well over 100 percent in terms of our debt-to-GDP ratio. In other words, we are about where we were at the peak of the crisis we were addressing during World War II.

That begs the questions: When does this end? How does this end?

There is not a world war in which we are involved right now. We are experiencing relative peace. There is not a recession. We are in the middle of one of the greatest peacetime economic recoveries this land has ever seen.

So if not us, then who? And if not now, then when?

Why is it that we now have to suspend our debt ceiling in order to essentially transfer to younger Americans, to subsequent generations the responsibility of financing the government that we have today?

One can easily defend those things when talking about the survival of a nation or about a world war or about a war in which our Nation's survival is at stake. We are not involved in any such effort right now.

We are involved in some conflicts around the world, but those are not really what is driving this. What is driving this is that we have a government that is too big and too expensive.

This means a lot of things to a lot of people. It is something that should weigh on every American seriously. I believe it weighs especially heavily on younger Americans, not just younger Americans themselves, but people who have children and grandchildren.

I represent a State with the lowest median age in the entire country, the State of Utah. We are also the State with the largest percentage of people under the age of 18.

I would like to speak to some of those people right now—those people under the age of 18, especially in my State where they are disproportionately represented.

Young Americans, those who have not yet attained the age of 18, have had all this debt accumulate—some \$22 trillion now by the Federal Government—that they are going to be responsible for, notwithstanding the fact that all

of that debt has been accumulated at periods in their life either before they were born or before they were old enough to vote.

It amounts to, in a sense, a really pernicious form of taxation without representation. We fought a war over that principle, and we won that war.

We shouldn't be doing this defiantly without a plan for turning it around, without a reason to have to do that—a reason that has to do with our very survival—without some sort of plan for getting out of it. But instead of getting out it, we are accelerating into it, and that is troubling.

Some might argue, and, in fact, some within this body and in the House of Representatives have argued that so-called discretionary spending is not worth worrying about. Discretionary spending, for those of you not familiar with the term, refers to that part of the government that Congress decides on each and every year that isn't predecided the way our entitlement programs are.

In other words, mandatory or entitlement spending, spending on things like Social Security and Medicare that are already set aside—those are things we don't have discretion over. They are already called for by law. We already have to spend money on them.

There are those in Congress who will maintain that we shouldn't worry about discretionary spending, which is the primary focus of this measure, of this budget caps deal, and of this debt ceiling deal, because, really, the bigger picture, the bigger concern, and the bigger threat is, in fact, about mandatory spending. It is the entitlement programs, they will say, that really are driving the looming debt crisis. But it is important to point out that we are not reforming those either. We couldn't even stick to the budget caps that both parties in both Houses and the White House agreed to just a few years ago.

It defies logic and reason, in my mind, for people to say: Well, we shouldn't worry about discretionary spending because mandatory spending is really where the problem is. No one would ever advise someone struggling with alcohol consumption that they shouldn't worry about consuming too much alcohol if they are also addicted to something else—meth or heroin or some other terribly addictive substance that might also be harmful to them. The fact that you are dealing with one problem doesn't mean that you don't also have to face the other problem. That is the concern I have with this deal. That is the reason I plan to vote against it.

I know and I will be the first to admit that there are no easy solutions here. There are no solutions that anyone would look to and say: Yes, that sounds like a lot of fun. I don't want to do that.

It reminds me of a time when my sister, Stephanie, was enrolled in a new school shortly after my family moved back to Utah. Stephanie was in kinder-

garten. Stephanie was asked by the teacher, as they were testing her to try to figure out which class she should be in, to take out her favorite color of crayon and write down her name. My mom watched from a distance as the teacher administered this test. She knew that Stephanie knew full well how to write her name. She watched in a certain degree of agony as Stephanie sat there and didn't pick up a single crayon.

After the test was complete and the teacher concluded, mistakenly, that Stephanie didn't know how to write her name, my mom asked her: Why didn't you write your name?

She said: The lady asked me to pick out my favorite color of crayon, and they didn't have pink. So I didn't write my name.

Sometimes I wonder whether Congress is in the same position as my sister Stephanie when she was at that young age being tested. We don't see our favorite color of crayon. We don't see our favorite option. We don't see any easy options there.

In fact, we see a whole lot of options that would involve putting a dent in this problem—this growing, building problem that I have pointed out in the graph—and we see criticism that would likely ensue from any one of those options. Now, I understand that. It doesn't mean that the laws of mathematics will not eventually catch up to us.

Winston Churchill is known to have said of the American people that the American people will always make the right choice after they have exhausted every other alternative. Now, I don't know whether he, in fact, said that. If he did, in fact, say it, I don't think he meant it as a compliment to the American people, but I take it as such. It is a compliment. It is what differentiates us from other countries. We do, in fact, make the right choice. We are great not because of who we are but because of what we do, and, generally, at least after we have exhausted other alternatives, we do make the right choice—a choice that reflects the principles of liberty that really have always defined us as a nation.

Those principles cannot coexist with an effort that suggests to us that our government is so big and has to be so big that there is nothing we can do about the fact that Americans are required to work weeks or months out of every year just to pay their Federal taxes and then be told that we are \$22 trillion in debt. By the time the 2 years contemplated under this deal have passed, we may well be at \$23 trillion, \$24 trillion, or, perhaps, approaching \$25 trillion in debt. Is it going to be any easier then to deal with the problem than it is now? I think not.

If not us, who? If not now, when? The way we start making steps in the right direction is to vote against a bill—a bill that, like this one, does not meaningfully address the problem.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE).
The Senator from Indiana.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I have the good fortune every Thursday of sitting here anywhere from 3 to 6, depending on what the workload is. Since I have gotten here, as a Senator from Indiana, as a Main Street entrepreneur, almost everything I talk about is stuff that I have learned back in the real world.

Now and then, there will be a speaker here that breaks up the monotony of sitting there for that amount of time. My friend and fellow Senator, Mr. LEE, couldn't have said it more eloquently. You have a beautiful graph here to show the issue. I am going to take just a few minutes to reinforce what he said.

When I ran for Senate, I did it out of the frustration that it seems like only here in DC do we hear the same things year after year and nothing ever seems to change. I know the responsibility of leadership and trying to navigate through the system. But sooner or later, we have to simply say enough is enough.

This year, the President, I really think, wanted to shake the system up, I was hoping, like back in March of 2018, when there was a continuing resolution agreed to, to re-enable defense, which, in my opinion, is probably the most important thing the Federal Government should do. That might be the last time. As Senator LEE said: Look at the chart.

There was always a good reason in the past, and it was generally along the lines of defending our country. But the ethic back then should be what the ethic is now—like it is for every household, every State government, every school board, and especially every business—that you borrow money not to consume. That is called putting it on a credit card. In almost everything we do in the Federal Government, there is not a tangible asset to show for it. We are actually spending it and consuming it.

When you borrow money in any business, there is a difference between expenses and supplies and capital expenditures. We do not even talk about that.

I am going to accept the reality of the system today. I don't like it. I am going to vote against the bill as well. I have talked to my fellow Members that we need to, sooner or later, quit saying the same things. We need to, sooner or later, reform the system, to actually do things that are going to be different from everything we have done in the past that has led us to this.

How is it going to happen? We are going to need to have more Senators like Senator LEE, like myself, who get involved and make the case. But the only way this is really going to happen is if Hoosiers and Americans know you could never get by with this in your own household.

I know I could have never built a national business by doing this over 37 years. It is like in business. People always ask you: How did you get there? I will tell you how I got there: patience, perseverance, hard work, reinvesting every penny I made, borrowing money only when it made sense. And it wasn't for a nicer corporate headquarters. My office was in a mobile home for 17 years. I appreciated low overhead.

When you do things like that, great opportunities come your way. To all the people who come here from Indiana every week somehow connected with the Federal Government wanting more, my advice to them is hedge your bets. If you are dependent on an institution like this that just is so stubborn and will not correct itself, this trajectory will lead to a bad day somewhere down the road that our kids and grandkids will deal with.

I think the other side of the aisle does drive a lot of this mentality that the Federal Government should do more regardless of what it costs.

The income tax occurred about right back in here. That became a source of revenue for the Federal Government that we pretty well disciplined ourselves with, until we got to right here, when entitlements and the mandated spending took over the dynamic of our Federal Government.

We have everything on auto pilot here where you can't even discuss it. From Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and interest on our debt to about another 10 to 15 percent that we have moved from discretionary to mandatory—another gimmick here—it is only 30 percent of the budget that we can deal with. Senator LEE talked about it.

All of that we know, and all I am asking leadership and the President, when we do win in 2020—because I think we will, because anybody that is proposing ideas like the Green New Deal, Medicare for All, free college tuition, and getting rid of college debt is only going to add fuel to the fire—is that we as fiscal conservatives are going to have to be heard, and leadership and the President are going to have to hear us.

Even though it is not going to happen this time, we shouldn't be afraid to talk about it, because everyone else in our country—households, school boards, businesses, and State governments—does. That is because they have the common sense to live within their means, not loot the bank in the present and shovel all these troubles onto future generations.

I yield the floor.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on roll-call vote No. 228, the confirmation of

Wendy Williams Berger, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on roll-call vote No. 229, the confirmation of Brian C. Buescher, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska.●

INTERFERENCE WITH ELECTIONS ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I would like to speak about the Prevention of Foreign Interference with Elections Act, which I introduced in June.

The bill is cosponsored by all 10 Democratic members of the Judiciary Committee, plus Senators MARKEY and SMITH. This bill is necessary because we know foreign actors are working to influence our elections. The Mueller report showed us how Russia interfered in 2016, and we can expect it to happen again in 2020. The bill's goal is to provide enhanced criminal penalties to prevent foreign interference in our elections. The bill makes five changes to current law in order to accomplish that.

First, it explicitly makes it a crime to work with foreign nationals to interfere in U.S. elections.

Second, the bill prohibits Americans from helping foreign nationals funnel illegal contributions or donations into U.S. elections.

Third, the bill expands restrictions on foreign-financed election ads. Notably, it restricts foreign-financed issue ads and foreign-financed digital ads.

Fourth, the bill creates a civil action so that when the Attorney General learns of foreign interference, the Justice Department can immediately get an injunction.

And fifth, the bill modifies immigration law so if a non-U.S. citizen is convicted of interfering in our elections, they would be inadmissible into the United States.

Unless we take action, Russia or another foreign power will interfere with our elections. It is not a question of if, it is a question of when.

We need to make clear that such interference will result in criminal punishment, and we must update our election laws to combat these new cyber attacks.

This bill accomplishes both. Thank you.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF "APOLLO 11"

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of the moon landing and New Hampshire's role in this important moment of history.

On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin completed their 13th orbit around the Moon and fired up the descent engine on the now-historic *Eagle* Apollo Lunar Module. With pilot Mi-

chael Collins staying behind in the command module, *Columbia*, these American heroes, with the entire world watching and backed by a whole generation of scientists, engineers, and specialists supporting them on the ground, began their initial descent to be the first humans to set foot on another planetary body.

What many Americans may not know is that as both pilots began their historic descent, critical New Hampshire-made technology was helping them along the way. Sensors made by RdF Corporation in Hudson were a part of the lunar module propulsion system guiding them to the lunar surface. RdF sensors were also on their spacesuits as they took that first giant leap for mankind.

RdF, which continues to support the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, as it looks to return to the Moon and then Mars, is just one of the many innovative small businesses in the Granite State that have played such a critical role in our country's space program.

For example, the Saturn V rocket program, which launched the Apollo crews to the Moon, benefitted from a state-of-the-art computerized system which was developed at Sanders Associates in Nashua, now a part of BAE Systems. HaighFarr in Bedford has been in business for over 50 years designing complex antennas for the space program and has played a significant role in our Mars lander and rover programs. Mikrolar, in Hampton, manufactures high precision positioning systems and is a critical piece of the James Webb Telescope, which will be the successor to the Hubble sometime in the next decade.

The fact is that New Hampshire's pioneering and innovative small business community has been a mainstay in the aerospace community for decades and remains so today. As the ranking member on the Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees and funds NASA, I am supportive of NASA's efforts to get us back to the Moon and eventually Mars, particularly because I know Granite State businesses will be leading those efforts.

It is not just the private sector in New Hampshire that has stepped up to keep us competitive in science and space. It is also our educational community. The University of New Hampshire, UNH, is a key contributor to NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, which has been in orbit around the Moon since 2009. The New Hampshire Space Grant Consortium, which includes nine Granite State affiliates, including UNH, Dartmouth, and our very own McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, is focused on educating our future scientists and space technicians.

A true accounting of New Hampshire's role in space would not be complete without calling attention to two of our State's most impressive space-faring heroes: Alan Shepard and Christa McAuliffe.

Alan Shepard was from Derry and is better known to the rest of the world as the first American in space. His historic 1961 Mercury flight paved the way for the Apollo missions to the Moon. I am also reminded that, as the commander of the follow-on *Apollo 14* mission, he also became the first human to golf on the Moon's surface.

Christa McAuliffe's legacy as an advocate for her students and for science education continues to inspire to this day. New Hampshire and the entire country are proud of her pioneering efforts. Earlier this month, the entire U.S. Senate honored that legacy and passed my legislation authorizing the U.S. Mint to produce a commemorative coin in her honor.

As we continue to celebrate these American achievements, we also celebrate the New Hampshire businesses, institutions, and people who helped make that possible and remember the pride Americans everywhere felt that day.

I also hope that the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing will serve as a wake-up call to all of us, a statement of the great things our country can do when we stand united, working together, and focused on a common goal. We need more of that today. I hope we will look to heroes like Christa McAuliffe, Alan Shepard, and the *Apollo 11* crew as we rededicate ourselves as a nation to achieving the impossible.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 158

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 158 from Green Bay, WI. The original charter of Local 158 was filed on June 6, 1919.

IBEW Local 158 occupies a storied place in the history of organized labor in northeast Wisconsin. Electrical workers in Green Bay began organizing for better wages and working conditions as early as 1902. By 1919, the workers had a committed core of electrical workers and filed the charter to establish a chapter of the IBEW on June 6 of that year. On June 17, 1919, the Local held its first meeting at the home of Brother August Verheyden. The Local increased its influence and magnified its voice by joining other groups advocating for workers and their families. In 1921, IBEW Local 158 joined the State Federation of Labor, the Green Bay Labor Council, and the Green Bay Building Trades.

Construction of paper mills and powerplants in the Fox Valley created steady employment for IBEW members. Their experience was especially important when the call for skilled labor went out during World War II to help build ships for the U.S. Navy. After the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy rapidly began building low-cost cargo ships called Liberty

Ships, as well as smaller torpedo patrol and submarine chaser boats. Members of IBEW Local 158, along with their brethren from Local 1012 at the Leatham D. Smith Shipbuilding Company in Sturgeon Bay, stepped up to this challenge and contributed to the successful U.S. war effort.

IBEW Local 158 continued its significant contributions to the Green Bay economy and community through its work on Green Bay's City Hall, which opened in 1957. That same year, the Local celebrated its contribution to the completion of the Lake Michigan pipeline and the new City Stadium, home of the Green Bay Packers.

In the early 1970s, Local 158 merged with three other Wisconsin IBEW organizations: Local 751 in Manitowoc, Local 1012 in Sturgeon Bay, and Local 1235 in Marinette, making Local 158 a stronger, more diverse and financially sound Local in the Brotherhood.

In recent times, the skills and expertise of Local 158 members are on display at nearby nuclear power stations, paper mills, shipyards, and hospitals. In 2003, IBEW contributed to the significant renovations at Lambeau Field, a landmark we in Wisconsin like to refer to as the "8th Wonder of the World."

IBEW Local 158, however, is known for far more than its economic achievements. Its members also deserve recognition for their significant contributions to their community through generous charitable initiatives. In addition, its advocacy on behalf of family supporting wages has helped build the strong middle class Green Bay enjoys today.

On this important day, marking 100 years of outstanding service to its members, its union, and its community, I heartily congratulate IBEW Local 158 on its successful advocacy on behalf of working families, and I wish its members continued progress for the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING THE FREEPORT FLAG LADIES

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to three great patriots, three inspiring women, from the town of Freeport, ME. Their names are Elaine Greene, Carmen Footer, and JoAnn Miller. They are known by our men and women in uniform, veterans, and grateful citizens throughout America as the Freeport Flag Ladies.

On September 11, 2001, an act of terror transformed a beautiful Tuesday morning into a day of unfathomable horror. Three days later, President Bush asked grief-stricken Americans to step outside their homes with lighted candles in memory of the heroes of 9/11 and of the nearly 3,000 innocent men, women, and children who perished.

Living on a secluded road, Elaine, Carmen, and JoAnn instead took their candles and an American flag to busy Main Street. Their location quickly began a rallying point for all of Free-

port, the site of a spontaneous, heartfelt memorial service.

Then they did something even more remarkable. They made a promise to stand with their flags on Main Street each and every Tuesday morning between the hours of 8 and 9, to mark the day and time of the attacks.

This coming September 11th will be their final vigil. When that day comes, they will have kept their promise for more than 900 consecutive Tuesdays, in rain, sleet, and snow, in bitter cold and in blistering heat. Carmen, the youngest of the three at 74, says their "retirement" is due solely to the fact that "Age wins, all the time."

For the past 4 years, the Freeport Flag Ladies have been joined each Tuesday by Darlene Jolly and frequently by Elaine's sister, Amy Gove.

They have kept their promise, and they have done so much more. From 2002 to 2016, they spearheaded a wonderful 9/11 tribute in Freeport. They have regularly made the long drive to Bangor International Airport, to join the legendary Maine Troop Greeters, and to Pease International Airport in New Hampshire, to meet the members of our Armed Forces as they head overseas or return home. They have greeted thousands of soldiers, and they are remembered by them all.

They have made a special effort to reach out to those who serve our country and to their families. Thousands of photographs of outbound troops have been sent back home, and families receive a weekly message. They have sent packages of games, magazines, and food to troops overseas. Parcels to combat support hospitals contain clothing and special pillows to make the transport of wounded soldiers more comfortable. They have funded these amazing efforts themselves, with yard sales, growing and selling "Flowers for Freedom," and donations.

Describing what Elaine Greene, Carmen Footer, and JoAnn Miller have done falls far short of putting into words what the Freeport Flag Ladies mean to our country. Perhaps the best words were spoken by Elaine: "Freedom shines on America, so let us shine for America." The Freeport Flag Ladies shine brightly, and their light will continue to inspire us all. Their prayer to be of service was answered with a mission to commemorate, to honor, and to remember. They are among those throughout our Nation who transformed one of America's darkest days into one of our finest hours.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Flag Ladies of Freeport, ME, who will soon retire from their unwavering efforts to commemorate the heroes and the victims of the life-changing events that occurred on September 11, 2001. Every Tuesday since that day—for 18 years—the Freeport Flag Ladies have stood on Main Street in Freeport in our Nation's colors waving our Nation's flag. First standing to honor the lives lost in the 2001 attacks, these ladies have

continued to stand to support the brave men and women who serve our country today. Main Street shall see them wave the red, white, and blue for the last time on September 11, 2019.

In the days after the events of September 11, Elaine Greene, Carmen Footer, and Joann Miller were just like the rest of the country: they wanted to heal the Nation. So they acted, devoting their time and energy to honor and salute those who were lost and those who are willing to make the greatest sacrifice our Nation can ask. Since beginning their effort, these ladies have not missed a single Tuesday to share their message of patriotism and solidarity. Nothing could deter them, not the heaviest rains, the coldest snows, the blazing summer sun or even a dislocated shoulder. The Freeport Flag Ladies have showed up every week—no matter what.

When troops were deployed to Afghanistan and later Iraq, these women took this as an expansion of their mandate—traveling up to Bangor to send off soldiers and greet those returning home. The Freeport Flag Ladies have given up much themselves to ensure their mission is carried out week after week. Their own comfort has been forgone in their pursuit to bring comfort to their fellow countrymen. In waving the flag and shaking the hands of soldiers, Elaine Greene, Carmen Footer, and Joann Miller have represented the best of our Nation and the ideals of the flag they wave.

I want to thank the Freeport Flag Ladies for their commitment to honoring both the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and the soldiers who are currently serving and defending the United States. Their mission is not political. It is clear that what they do is an act of love and appreciation for the great sacrifices made by those who serve our country. These unwavering patriots are a reminder to the American people of what the flag represents. While they may wave their flags for the final time on September 11, 2019, the patriotism of these women will continue to be remembered and celebrated.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI CENTER FOR MISSOURI STUDIES

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today, I stand to recognize the grand opening of the State Historical Society of Missouri's Center for Missouri Studies on August 10. The Center for Missouri Studies was established in 2014, and this new facility will move the State Historical Society from its home of 100 years to a new, visionary center meant to connect scholars of varied disciplines, showcase artwork by renowned Missourians, and provide state-of-the-art space for educational programming.

The State Historical Society of Missouri was founded in 1898 by the Missouri Press Association and has been an integral part of the preservation of Missouri's history ever since. Not only does it support research at centers in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and Springfield, it also houses an extensive collection of manuscripts, newspapers, books, maps, photographs, and art. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated staff over decades, the public can explore the records, myths, and culture that comprise the rich history of our State.

The new Center for Missouri Studies will build upon the State Historical Society's mission to "collect, preserve, publish, exhibit, and make available" to the public myriad resources and opportunities to learn. The center will feature a large art gallery, multipurpose and classroom space, an expanded research center, and modern conservation lab space. Not only will the public have greater access to historical archives and artwork, expert scholars will be able to study and examine the society's extensive collections in a space designed to facilitate collaboration.

The commitment of the State Historical Society of Missouri to preserve our history as we look forward to the beginning of a third century in our State is to be commended. The potential for the public to enjoy our State's unique past with greater ease cannot be undervalued. The dedication of the State Historical Society to drive this project to completion serves as an example to others. I extend my sincere thanks for all they do. Congratulations to Executive Director Gary Kremer and all State Historical Society of Missouri staff on this important occasion.●

TRIBUTE TO CHLOE JEAN MILSTEN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Chloe Jean Milsten of Park County for her spirit of entrepreneurship in Livingston.

While still in high school, Ms. Milsten opened and operated her own business, Chloe's Barkery. Located in downtown Livingston, Chloe's Barkery sells dog treats to the Park County community. Now, after her high school graduation, she continues to manage the shop, providing Montanans with a unique, healthy bakery tailored for dogs.

Ms. Milsten's family has been a tremendous support system during her business endeavors. Her parents were some of her biggest influences in encouraging her to launch her business. Additionally, her younger sister Taeyha assists in the day-to-day operations of the store. Chloe's Barkery is the perfect example of a successful family-operated business that we can all be proud of in Montana.

Ms. Milsten's interest in animals is not merely related to her entrepre-

neurial spirit, but also that she hopes to become a veterinarian one day. I applaud Ms. Milsten for her impressive motivation and perseverance in owning and operating a successful small business, and I look forward to seeing all she accomplishes in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE DILLON

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Caroline Dillon of Rochester, NH, as July's Granite Stater of the Month for her work ensuring that every public high school and middle school in New Hampshire provides free feminine hygiene products to students who cannot afford them.

When Caroline first learned about "period poverty" in her high school's U.S. history class, she was shocked by the magnitude of this crisis. Period poverty occurs when someone does not have the means to afford basic feminine hygiene products. Caroline knew many of her classmates were on the reduced or free lunch program, and it did not take long for her to connect the dots and realize that some of her classmates were struggling with this problem every month.

Caroline turned her concern into political action. She took her history teacher's advice, who told Caroline's class that, if they ever had a problem with how things were run in the State, they should reach out to an elected official. She reached out to State Senator Martha Hennessey, an outspoken advocate for women's health and education.

Caroline, who at the time was not old enough to vote, worked with Senator Hennessey to draft the bill and to gain support for their legislation in the New Hampshire State House and among interest groups. Their argument was simple: If students do not need to bring essentials like toilet paper to school, why should they need to bring their own feminine hygiene products, which are just as essential?

Thanks to Caroline's efforts, the New Hampshire Governor last week signed into law a bill that mandates that every high school and middle school in the Granite State provide free feminine hygiene products in their female and gender-neutral bathrooms.

I want to thank Caroline once more for her work to help reduce the stigma around periods and to provide essential feminine hygiene products for those in need. I want to congratulate her as well for demonstrating how powerful individual compassion and advocacy can be in our democracy.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:10 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 397. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund, to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multiemployer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 434. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 759. An act to restore an opportunity for tribal economic development on terms that are equal and fair, and for other purposes.

H.R. 776. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

H.R. 1058. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1307. An act to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1365. An act to make technical corrections to the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act.

H.R. 1984. An act to amend chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to annually submit to Congress a report on all disaster-related assistance provided by the Federal Government.

H.R. 2035. An act to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to life-span respite care.

H.R. 2507. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain program under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3239. An act to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to perform an initial health screening on detainees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3245. An act to transfer a bridge over the Wabash River to the New Harmony River Bridge Authority and the New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3299. An act to permit legally married same-sex couples to amend their filing status for income tax returns outside the statute of limitations, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3375. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify the prohibitions on making robocalls, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3409. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 434. An act to amend the National Trails System act to provide for the study of the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1307. An act to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1365. An act to make technical corrections to the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1984. An act to amend chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to annually submit to Congress a report on all disaster-related assistance provided by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2507. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3239. An act to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to perform an initial health screening on detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3409. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2258. A bill to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers.

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-2111. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Significant New Uses of Oxazolidine, 3,3'-Methylenebis[5-methyl-," (FRL No. 9995-09-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2112. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Nadja Y. West, United States Army, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2113. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2114. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds" (RIN1557-AE47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2115. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Simplifications to the Capital Rule Pursuant to the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996" (RIN1557-AE10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2116. 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; Ohio; Removal of Obsolete Infectious Waste Incinerator Regulations" (FRL No. 9997-29-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2117. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Revisions to Nonattainment Permitting Regulations" (FRL No. 9996-96-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2118. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Feather River Air Quality Management District; Correction" (FRL No. 9997-33-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2119. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treasury Decision (TD): Income Inclusion When Lessee Treated as Having Acquired Investment Credit Property" (RIN1545-BM74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2120. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations on the Requirement to Notify the IRS of Intent to Operate as a Section 501(c)(4) Organization" (RIN1545-BN25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2121. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Creditable Foreign Taxes" (RIN1545-BM56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2122. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the

Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indexing adjustments for certain provisions under Section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code" (Rev. Proc. 2019-29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2123. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Automatic Consent to Change Methods of Accounting to Comply with Section 846" (Rev. Proc. 2019-30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2124. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice: Additional Preventive Care Benefits Permitted to be Provided by a High Deductible Health Plan Under Section 223" (Notice 2019-45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2125. A communication from the Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of State 2019 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflationary Adjustment" (RIN1400-AE75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2126. A communication from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2018 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2127. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program Modification" (RIN1615-AC07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON JULY 24, 2019

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 542. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions (Rept. No. 116-65).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 3305. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia, as the "Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building".

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 918. A bill to prohibit the President or a Federal agency from constructing, operating, or offering wholesale or retail services on broadband networks without authoriza-

tion from Congress, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-66).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 918. A bill to prohibit the President or a Federal agency from constructing, operating, or offering wholesale or retail services on broadband networks without authorization from Congress, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-66).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Richard K. Bell, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

Nominee: Richard K. Bell.

Post: Cote d'Ivoire.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date and Donee:

1. Self: Possibly \$100, unknown, Obama or Democratic Party.
2. Spouse: \$50, 3/24/17, Democratic National Committee, \$50, 8/22/18, Beto O'Rourke.
3. Children and Spouses: Annis Catherine Bell, none; William Derek Bell, none.
4. Parents: William Delbert Bell, none; Catherine Marie Winfrey Bell, none.
5. Grandparents: NIA (all four deceased >20 years).
6. Brothers and Spouses: Mark Allan Bell, none; Paul Duane Bell, unknown*; Maryann Gallivan Bell (Paul's wife), unknown*.

*Unable to confirm contributions: he told me no details are available and she told me all handled by him. I searched FEC website on his name, state and employment but could not ascertain which results applied to him, if any.

Sisters and Spouses: NIA.

Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

Nominee: Pamela Bates.

Post: U.S. Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Ian Christensen, a minor, none.
4. Parents: Deceased.
5. Grandparents: Deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Col. George J. David, USMC, none; Medha P. David, none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Nominee: Jonathan R. Cohen.

Post: Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Nominated: April 11, 2019.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Lidija Cohen: None.
3. Children: Alexandra R. Cohen, None; Gabriella Cohen, None.
4. Parents: Harry B. Cohen—deceased; Adrienne M. Cohen—deceased.
5. Grandparents: Saul Cohen—deceased; Bessie Cohen—deceased; Richard I. Mann—deceased; Sylvia Mann—deceased.

6. Brother: Sascha B. Cohen: \$10, 07-08-15, Bernie Sanders; \$10, 10-13-15, Bernie Sanders; \$18, 11-05-15, Bernie Sanders; \$10, 12-28-15, Bernie Sanders; \$36, 02-29-16, Bernie Sanders; \$10, 07-25-16, Elizabeth Warren; \$10, 07-25-16, Hillary Clinton; \$5, 11-23-16; Jill Stein recount; \$5, 11-26-16, Foster Campbell; \$25, 01-12-17, National Democratic Redistricting PAC; \$18, 01-31-17, Elizabeth Warren; \$1, 05-04-17, IL-06 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$1, 05-04-17, OH-14 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$1, 05-04-17, OH-10 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$1, 05-04-17, MN-03 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$1, 05-04-17, NE-01 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$1, 05-04-17, CA-49 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$1, 05-04-17, MI-03 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$1, 05-04-17, FL-25 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$1, 05-04-17, CA-25 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$1, 05-04-17, KS-03 2018 Democratic Nominee Fund; \$15, 05-31-17, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; \$10, 06-02-17, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; \$27, 09-20-17, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; \$3.34, 10-25-17, Sherrod Brown; \$3.33, 10-25-17, Tammy Baldwin; \$3.33, 10-25-17, Elizabeth Warren; \$27, 10-29-17, Friends of the Earth Action; \$10, 09-16-18, Giffords PAC-IE; \$5, 09-16-18, Sean Casten; \$10, 09-17-18, Sean Casten; \$9, 09-16-18, Mike Levin; \$10, 09-16-18, Beto O'Rourke; \$8, 09-17-18, Katie Porter; \$5, 09-16-18, Harley Rouda; \$2, 09-17-18, Adam Schiff; \$10, 09-16-18, Jon Tester; \$5, 09-16-18, Elizabeth Warren; \$10, 02-13-19, Kamala Harris; \$10, 03-1-19, Ditch Fund; \$18, 03-17-19, Vote Vets PAC; \$10, 03-17-19, Pete Buttigieg; \$5, 03-31-19, Kamala Harris; \$5, 03-31-19, Pete Buttigieg; \$3, 03-31-19, Jay Inslee.

7. Sisters: None.

Lana J. Marks, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Africa.

Nominee: Lana Jennifer Marks.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to South Africa.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Martin Marks: \$2,700, 2015, Hillary for America; Tiffany Isaacs: \$35, 2018, RNC.

Parents:
Grandparents:
Brothers and Spouses:
Sisters and Spouses:

John Rakolta, Jr., of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

Nominee: John Rakolta Jr.
Post: United Arab Emirates.
Nominated: 2-6-2019.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributor, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: John Rakolta Jr., \$101,700.00, 3/2/2017, Republican National Committee; \$33,900.00, 3/2/2017, Republican National Committee; \$14,400.00, 3/2/2017, Republican National Committee; \$10,000.00, 1/18/2017, Ronna McDaniel Fund; \$250,000.00, 1/2/2017, Presidential Inauguration; \$1,000.00, 11/2/2016, BERGMAN VICTORY COMMITTEE; \$2,700.00, 10/31/2016, Mike Bishop for Congress; \$250.00, 10/30/2016, Debbie Dingell for Congress; \$2,000.00, 10/27/2016, Debbie Dingell for Congress; \$2,700.00, 9/27/2016, Grassley Committee Inc.; \$10,800.00, 9/3/2016, Rubio Y Committee; \$5,400.00, 8/30/2016, Rubio Y Committee; \$2,700.00, 8/30/2016, Marc Rubio for Senate 2016; \$2,700.00, 8/30/2016, Marc Rubio for Senate 2016; \$125,000.00, 7/29/2016, Trump Victory; \$125,000.00, 7/27/2016, Trump Victory; \$1,000.00, 6/30/2016, Friends of Kelly Ayotte Inc.; \$1,000.00, 6/30/2016, Friends of Kelly Ayotte Inc.; \$1,700.00, 6/8/2016, Rubio Refund; \$2,700.00, 6/8/2016, Rubio Refund; \$6,200.00, 5/25/2016, NRCC; \$33,400.00, 5/25/2016, NRCC; \$2,700.00, 5/25/2016, Ryan For Congress, Inc.; \$2,700.00, 5/25/2016, Ryan For Congress, Inc.; \$5,000.00, 5/25/2016, Prosperity Action Inc.; \$50,000.00, 5/25/2016, Team Ryan; \$2,700.00, 5/12/2016, David Trott For Congress; \$5,400.00, 3/2/2016, Sen. Rob Portman; \$2,700.00, 12/28/2015, Marco Rubio For President; (\$2,700.00), 12/28/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,700.00, 12/14/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,700.00, 12/4/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,700.00, 10/2/2015, Jeb Bush for President; \$2,700.00, 9/29/2015, Ron Johnson For Senate Inc.; \$100.00, 8/20/2015, Ron Johnson For Senate Inc.; \$2,700.00, 8/17/2015, Rob Portman For US Senate; \$10,000.00, 1/26/2015, Ronna McDaniel Fund; \$1,000.00, 10/3/2014, Debbie Dingell for Congress; \$25,000.00, 10/1/2014, Michigan Republican Party; \$2,000.00, 7/27/2014, Asa Hutchinson; \$2,600.00, 7/1/2014, Transact A E; \$2,600.00, 7/1/2014, Rally Donations; \$2,600.00, 6/30/2014, TERRI LYNN LAND FOR SENATE; \$2,600.00, 6/30/2014, Mike Bishop for Congress; \$2,600.00, 6/30/2014, David Trott for Congress, Inc.; \$10,000.00, 6/30/2014, National Republican Senatorial Committee; \$32,400.00, 6/30/2014, Republican National Committee; \$500.00, 5/27/2014, Debbie Dingell For Congress; \$2,000.00, 3/20/2014, Debbie Dingell For Congress; \$4,233.33, 10/17/2016, Republican Party of Minnesota—Federal; \$4,233.33, 10/17/2016, Connecticut Republican Party; \$2,700.00, 10/5/2016, Mike Bishop For Congress; \$257.14, 9/30/2016, Republican Party Of Minnesota—Federal; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, Connecticut Republican Party; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, Wyoming Republican Party, Inc.; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, Mississippi Republican Party; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, Republican Party Of Arkansas; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, Alabama Republican Party; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, West Virginia Republican Party, Inc.; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, Kansas Republican Party; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, Republican Party Of Virginia Inc.;

\$257.14, 9/27/2016, Missouri Republican State Committee—Federal; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, North Dakota Republican Party; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, Republican Party Of Louisiana; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, Illinois Republican Party; \$5,400.00, 9/27/2016, Donald Trump For President; \$2,700.00, 8/3/2016, Marco Rubio For Senate; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Republican Federal Committee Of Pennsylvania; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Mississippi Republican Party; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Wyoming Republican Party, Inc.; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Republican Party Of Arkansas; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Alabama Republican Party; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Kansas Republican Party; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, West Virginia Republican Party, Inc.; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Republican Party Of Wisconsin; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Republican Party Of Virginia Inc.; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Missouri Republican State Committee—Federal; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, North Dakota Republican Party; \$125,000.00, 7/26/2016, Trump Victory; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Republican Party Of Louisiana; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, California Republican Party Federal Act; \$4,233.33, 7/26/2016, Illinois Republican Party; \$1,000.00, 6/24/2016, Matt Gaetz For Congress.

2. Spouse: Rakolta, Terry L, \$4,233.33, 10/17/2016, Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account; \$4,233.33, 10/17/2016, North Carolina Republican Party; \$4,233.33, 10/17/2016, Republican Party Of Minnesota—Federal; \$4,233.33, 10/17/2016, New Jersey Republican State Committee; \$4,233.33, 10/17/2016, South Carolina Republican Party; \$4,233.33, 10/17/2016, Connecticut Republican Party; \$1,000.00, 10/6/2016, Grassley Committee Inc.; \$257.14, 9/27/2016, California Republican Party Federal Act; \$2,700.00, 8/30/2016, Marco Rubio For Senate 2016; \$2,700.00, 8/30/2016, Marco Rubio For Senate 2016; \$2,700.00, 8/30/2016, Marco Rubio For Senate 2016; \$5,400.00, 8/30/2016, RUBIO VICTORY COMMITTEE; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Mississippi Republican Party; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Wyoming Republican Party, Inc.; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Republican Party Of Arkansas; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Alabama Republican Party; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Kansas Republican Party; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, West Virginia Republican Party, Inc.; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Republican Party Of Wisconsin; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Republican Party Of Virginia Inc.; \$33,400.00, 7/28/2016, Republican National Committee; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Missouri Republican State Committee—Federal; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, North Dakota Republican Party; \$2,700.00, 7/28/2016, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.; \$125,000.00, 7/28/2016, Trump Victory; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Republican Party Of Louisiana; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, California Republican Party Federal Act; \$4,233.33, 7/28/2016, Illinois Republican Party; \$1,700.00, 5/13/2016, MARCO RUBIO FOR PRESIDENT; \$2,700.00, 2/29/2016, Portman For Senate Committee; \$1,700.00, 12/28/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$1,700.00, 12/14/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$1,700.00, 12/4/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,700.00, 10/2/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$5,400.00, 10/26/2015, Jeb 2016, Inc.; \$1,000.00, 9/30/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,600.00, 8/20/2015, Portman For Senate Committee; \$2,600.00, 6/30/2014, Mike Bishop For Congress; \$2,600.00, 6/30/2014, TERRI LYNN LAND FOR SENATE; \$2,600.00, 6/30/2014, TROTTI FOR CONGRESS, INC.

3. Daughter: \$2,700.00, 10/4/2016, Trump Victory; \$2,700.00, 10/4/2016, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.; \$2,700.00, 12/14/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,700.00, 8/24/2018, Rick Scott For Florida; \$15,000.00, 3/19/2018, Republican National Committee; \$2,700.00, 3/17/2018, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.; \$2,700.00, 3/17/2018, Donald J. Trump For

President, Inc.; \$5,400.00, 3/17/2018, Trump Victory; \$5,000.00, 1/29/2018, Michigan Republican Party; \$1,000.00, 12/31/2017, Cathy McMorris Rodgers For Congress; \$5,000.00, 12/29/2017, Michigan Republican Party; \$2,700.00, 9/30/2017, John James For Senate Inc.; \$2,700.00, 8/3/2017, John James For Senate Inc.; \$15,000.00, 3/6/2017, Republican National Committee; \$1,000.00, 10/19/2016, Grassley Committee Inc.; \$1,000.00, 10/11/2016, Trott For Congress, Inc.; \$5,400.00, 9/27/2016, Trump Victory; \$2,700.00, 9/27/2016, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.; \$2,700.00, 9/27/2016, Republican National Committee; \$2,700.00, 1/15/2016, Marco Rubio For President; \$5,400.00, 1/4/2016, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,700.00, 10/26/2015, Jeb 2016, Inc. Daughter's Spouse: Michael Fitzgerald, \$2,700.00, 1/14/2016, Marco Rubio For President; \$5,400.00, 1/4/2016, Marco Rubio For President.

5. Daughter: Paige Frisch, \$2,700.00, 2016, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,700.00, 2016, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc. Daughter's Spouse: Nickolos Frisch, \$2,700.00, 2016, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,700.00, 2016, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.

6. Son: John III, Rakolta, \$500.00, 3/9/2018, Gus Bilirakis For Congress; \$15,000.00, 3/1/2018, Republican National Committee; \$2,700.00, 2/21/2018, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.; \$2,700.00, 2/21/2018, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.; \$10,000.00, 2/21/2018, Trump Victory; \$2,500.00, 1/5/2018, Associated Builders And Contractors Political Action Committee; \$5,000.00, 1/2/2018, Michigan Republican Party; (\$2,700.00), 12/28/2017, John James For Senate Inc.; \$5,400.00, 12/11/2017, John James For Senate Inc.; \$2,700.00, 5/13/2017, Francis Rooney For Congress; \$2,700.00, 10/5/2016, Mike Bishop For Congress; \$1,000.00, 10/1/2016, Chuck Grassley For Senate; \$5,400.00, 9/27/2016, Donald Trump For President; \$2,700.00, 8/3/2016, Marco Rubio For Senate; \$1,000.00, 6/24/2016, Matt Gaetz For Congress; \$2,700.00, 2/29/2016, Portman For Senate Committee; \$2,700.00, 12/14/2015, Marco Rubio For President; \$2,700.00, 8/20/2015, Rob Portman For Senate; \$2,700.00, 8/20/2015, Jeb 2016, Inc. Son's Prior Spouse: Jennifer Rakolta \$2,700.00, 12/28/2017, John James For Senate Inc.

7. Sister: Linda Rakolta, \$250.00, 10/10/2018, DNC Services Corp./Democratic National Committee; \$25.00, 9/29/2018, Actblue; \$250.00, 9/16/2018, Dccc; \$12.50, 11/30/2017, Actblue; \$25.00, 8/6/2017, Actblue; \$25.00, 6/14/2017, Actblue; \$1,500.00, 9/23/2016, Hillary For America; \$250.00, 9/30/2016, Hillary For America; \$250.00, 10/18/2016, Hillary For America; \$250.00, 11/3/2016, Hillary For America; \$250.00, 2/13/2016, Hillary For America; \$250.00, 2/3/2016, Hillary Victory Fund; \$41.72, 10/6/2016, Hillary For America; \$41.72, 10/6/2016, Hillary Victory Fund. Sister's Spouse: Joel Ravern, \$50.00, 10/5/2018, Actblue; \$50.00, 10/1/2018, Actblue; \$50.00, 10/1/2018, Actblue; \$25.00, 7/27/2014, Actblue. Sister's Spouse: Marvin Keith, \$35.00, 11/24/2017, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$35.00, 10/24/2017, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$35.00, 9/24/2017, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$35.00, 8/24/2017, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$26.25, 7/24/2017, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.; \$35.00, 7/24/2017, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$26.25, 6/24/2017, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.; \$35.00, 6/24/2017, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$26.25, 5/24/2017, Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.; \$35.00, 5/24/2017, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$100.00, 2/28/2017, Trump Make America Great Again Committee;

\$50.00, 12/28/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$35.00, 12/24/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$35.00, 11/24/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$50.00, 11/1/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$35.00, 10/26/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$10.00, 10/25/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$50.00, 10/25/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$35.00, 10/6/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$10.00, 10/5/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$10.00, 10/5/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$50.00, 10/4/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$35.00, 8/24/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee; \$40.00, 6/28/2016, Trump Make America Great Again Committee.

Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States.

Nominee: Christopher Landau.

Post: Ambassador to Mexico.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$2,700, 6/24/16, Wendy Long for U.S. Senate.
2. Spouse: Caroline Landau: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Nathaniel and Julia Landau (no spouses): None.
4. Parents: George and Maria Landau (parents) (deceased): None.
5. Grandparents: Abraham Jakob Landau, Hubert Jobst, Jeannette Klausner Landau, Johanna Ertl Jobst—all deceased): None.
6. Brothers and spouses: Robert W. Landau, \$100, 4/10/16, Lindbeck for U.S. House; Linda M. Cero, (spouse), \$15, 8/9/16, Canova for U.S. House; \$1.50, 8/9/16, Actblue.
7. Sisters and spouses: None.

Richard B. Norland, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Libya.

Nominee: Richard B. Norland.

Post: Ambassador to Libya.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee.

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Mary E. Hartnett, none.
3. Children and Spouses: Daniel Norland (son): \$5.00, 11/16/2016, Act Blue PAC; Jennifer Barkley (spouse): None; Kathleen Norland List (daughter): None; Bernhard Phillip List (spouse): None.
4. Parents: Donald R. Norland (deceased); Patricia B. Norland (deceased).
5. Grandparents: E. Norman Norland (deceased); Aletta Norland (deceased); August Bamman (deceased); Emily Bamman (deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses: David Norland (brother): None; Susan Norland (spouse): None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Patricia D. Norland (sister): None; Angela Dickey (spouse): \$5.00 4/30/2015, Act Blue; \$50.00, 4/30/2015, Act Blue; \$25.00, 5/11/2015, Act Blue; \$25.00, 6/11/2015, Act Blue; \$15.00, 6/24/2015, Act Blue; \$25.00, 7/11/2015, Act Blue; \$25.00, 8/11/2015, Act Blue;

\$5.00, 8/13/2015, Act Blue; \$5.00, 9/13/2015, Act Blue; \$5.00, 10/13/2015, Act Blue; \$5.00, 11/13/2015, Act Blue; \$5.00, 12/13/2015, Act Blue; \$2.50, 1/4/2016, Act Blue; \$25.00, 1/4/2016, Act Blue; \$10.00, 1/11/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 1/13/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 1/13/2016, Bernie 2016; \$10.00, 1/18/2016, Act Blue; \$10.00, 1/18/2016, Bernie 2016; \$10.00, 1/25/2016, Act Blue; \$10.00, 1/25/2016, Bernie 2016; \$10.00, 2/1/2016, Act Blue; \$10.00, 2/1/2016, Bernie 2016; \$15.00, 2/5/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 2/13/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 2/13/2016, Bernie 2016; \$3.00, 3/2/2016, Act Blue; \$15.00, 3/13/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 3/13/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 3/13/2016, Bernie 2016; \$15.00, 3/13/2016, Bernie 2016; \$3.00, 4/2/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 4/13/2016, Bernie 2016; \$3.00, 5/2/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 5/13/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 5/13/2016, Bernie 2016; \$3.00, 6/2/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 6/13/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 6/13/2016, Bernie 2016; \$3.00, 6/24/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 7/13/2016, Bernie 2016; \$3.00, 8/24/2016, Act Blue; \$3.00, 9/24/2016, Act Blue; \$3.00, 10/24/2016, Act Blue; \$15.00, 11/8/2016, Act Blue; \$5.00, 11/8/2016, Act Blue; \$15.00, 12/13/2017; Act Blue; \$50.00, 2/2/2018; Act Blue; \$25.00, 4/24/2018, Act Blue.

Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Nominee: Kelly Knight Craft.

Post: Representative of the U.S. to the United Nations.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, date, amount, and recipient:

1. Self: Direct contributions to Federal Committees: 6/30/2015, \$2,700, Bush, Jeb VIA Jeb 2016, INC.; 12/22/2015, \$1,000, McCarthy, Kevin VIA Kevin McCarthy for Congress; 5/25/2016, \$2,700, Atkinson, Thomas M. VIA Tom Atkinson for Congress; 8/10/2016, \$5,400, Rubio, Marco VIA Marco Rubio for Senate; 9/13/2016, \$2,700, Coffman, Mike VIA Coffman for Congress 2016; 9/13/2016, \$2,700, Johnson, Ron Harold VIA Ron Johnson for Senate INC; 9/13/2016, \$2,700, Heck, Joe VIA Friends of Joe Heck; 9/13/2016, \$2,700, Young, Todd Christopher, VIA Friends of Todd Young, INC.; 9/13/2016, \$2,700, Comstock, Barbara J. VIA Comstock for Congress.

Contributions to Joint Fundraising Committees: 7/14/2016, \$105,400, Trump Victory; 9/15/2016, \$160,000, Trump Victory.

Final Recipients of Joint Fundraising Committee Contributions: 7/14/2016, \$10,000, Republican Party of Wisconsin; 7/14/2016, \$10,000, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania; 7/14/2016, \$2,700, Trump, Donald J. VIA Donald J. Trump for President, INC.; 7/14/2016, \$2,700, Trump, Donald J. VIA Donald J. Trump for President, INC.; 7/14/2016, \$10,000, Illinois Republican Party; 7/14/2016, \$10,000, Missouri Republican State Committee-Federal; 7/14/2016, \$33,400, Republican National Committee; 8/10/2016, \$2,256.25, Alabama Republican Party; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, Republican Party of Virginia INC; 9/15/2016, \$7,743.75, Republican Party of Virginia INC; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, North Dakota Republican Party; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, Republican Party of Louisiana; 9/15/2016, \$7,743.75, Kansas Republican Party; 9/15/2016, \$7,743.75, Republican

Party of Louisiana; 9/15/2016, \$2,700, Trump, Donald J. VIA Donald J. Trump for President, INC.; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, Kansas Republican Party; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee; 9/15/2016, \$7,743.75, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, California Republican Party Federal Account; 9/15/2016, \$7,743.75, California Republican Party Federal Account; 9/15/2016, \$7,743.75, Mississippi Republican Party; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, West Virginia Republican Party, INC.; 9/15/2016, \$7,743.75, West Virginia Republican Party, INC.; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, Wyoming Republican Party, INC.; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, Mississippi Republican Party; 9/15/2016, \$2,256.25, Republican Party of Arkansas; 9/15/2016, \$7,743.75, Republican Party of Arkansas; 9/30/2016, \$7,743.75, New Jersey Republican State Committee; 9/30/2016, \$7,743.75, Republican Party of Minnesota - Federal; 9/30/2016, \$7,743.75, Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account; 9/30/2016, \$7,743.75, Connecticut Republican Party; 9/30/2016, \$7,743.75, South Carolina Republican Party; 10/27/2016, \$2,256.25, Republican Party of Minnesota - Federal; 10/27/2016, \$10,000, North Carolina Republican Party; 10/27/2016, \$2,256.25, New Jersey Republican State Committee; 10/27/2016, \$2,256.25, Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account; 10/27/2016, \$2,256.25, Connecticut Republican Party; 10/27/2016, \$2,256.25, South Carolina, Republican Party.

2. Spouse: Joseph Walton Craft III: Direct contributions to Federal Committees: 1/29/2015, \$2,500, Guthrie, Brett S. VIA Guthrie for Congress; 1/29/2015, \$2,700, Guthrie, Brett S. VIA Guthrie for Congress; 2/20/2015, \$2,700, Lankford, James Paul VIA Families for James Lankford; 2/27/2015 \$5,000, Oklahoma Strong Leadership PAC; 3/19/2015, \$5,000, Leadership Matters for America PAC, INC.; 3/26/2015, \$334,000, Republican National Committee; 4/2/2015, \$5,000, CoalPAC, A Political Action Committee of the National Mining Association; 5/15/2015, \$5,400, Johnson, Ron Harold VIA Ron Johnson for Senate INC; 9/28/2015, \$2,700, McCarthy, Kevin VIA Kevin McCarthy for Congress; 10/28/2015, \$2,700, Cole, Tom VIA Cole for Congress; 12/23/2015, \$5,000, Alliance Coal PAC; 3/29/2016, \$100,200, Republican National Committee; 3/29/2016, \$100,200, Republican National Committee; 3/29/2016, \$33,400, Republican National Committee; 3/29/2016, \$5,000, CoalPAC, A Political Action Committee of the National Mining Association; 3/31/2016, \$5,400, Blunt, Roy VIA Friends of Roy Blunt; 4/12/2016, \$2,700, Comer, James VIA Comer for Congress; 5/25/2016, \$2,700, Atkinson, Thomas M. VIA Tom Atkinson for Congress; 6/6/2016, \$5,000, Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America PAC (US Chamber PAC); 6/6/2016, \$5,000, Alliance Coal PAC; 7/11/2016, \$2,700, Paul, Rand VIA Rand Paul for US Senate; 7/11/2016, \$2,700, Paul, Rand VIA Rand Paul for US Senate; 7/26/2016, \$5,400, Rubio, Marco VIA Marco Rubio for Senate; 7/26/2016, \$12,500, Republican Party of Kentucky; 9/13/2016, \$2,700, Coffman, Mike VIA Coffman for Congress 2016; 9/13/2016, \$2,700, Heck, Joe VIA Friends of Joe Heck; 9/13/2016, \$2,700, Young, Todd Christopher VIA Friends of Todd Young, INC.; 9/13/2016, \$2,700, Comstock, Barbara J. VIA Comstock for Congress; 9/29/2016, \$5,000, OKSTRONG PAC; 5/25/2017, \$5,000, US Chamber PAC; 8/15/2017, \$5,000, Alliance Coal PAC; 10/10/2017, \$5,000, CoalPAC, A Political Action Committee of the National Mining Association; 12/12/2017, \$35,000, National Republican Senatorial Committee; 12/22/2017, \$2,700, Yoder, Kevin VIA Yoder for Congress; 12/22/2017, \$2,700, Yoder, Kevin VIA Yoder for Congress; 3/1/2018, \$5,000, US Chamber PAC; 2/27/2018, \$5,000, CoalPAC, A Political Action Committee of the National Mining Association; 3/20/2018, \$2,700, Bost, Mike VIA Mike

Bost for Congress; 3/20/2018, \$2,700, Davis, Rodney VIA Rodney Davis for Congress; 3/20/2018, \$2,700, Roskam, Peter VIA Roskam for Congress; 3/20/2018, \$2,700, Hurd, Will VIA Hurd for Congress; 3/20/2018, \$2,700, Love, Mia VIA Friends of Mia Love; 3/20/2018, \$2,700, Hawley, Josh VIA Josh Hawley for Senate; 3/20/2018, \$2,700, Cramer, Kevin VIA Cramer for Senate; 3/20/2018, \$2,700, Blackburn, Marsha VIA Marsha for Senate; 3/20/2018, \$5,000, Alliance Coal PAC; 5/9/2018, \$35,000, National Republican Senatorial Committee; 5/9/2018, \$2,700, Barr, Andy VIA Andy Barr for Congress; 6/11/2018, \$2,700, Cramer, Kevin VIA Cramer for Senate; 6/11/2018, \$2,700, Scott, Rick VIA Rick Scott for Florida; 6/11/2018, \$2,700, Scott, Rick VIA Rick Scott for Florida; 6/11/2018, \$2,700, Morrisey, Patrick VIA Morrisey for Senate; 6/11/2018, \$2,700, Morrisey, Patrick VIA Morrisey for Senate; 6/11/2018, \$2,700, Heller, Dean VIA Heller for Senate; 6/11/2018, \$2,700, Heller, Dean VIA Heller for Senate; 8/3/2018, \$2,700, Barrasso, John VIA Friends of John Barrasso; 8/3/2018, \$2,700, Barrasso, John VIA Friends of John Barrasso; 8/3/2018, \$5,000, Barrasso, John VIA Common Values PAC; 8/27/2018, \$2,700, Miller, Carol VIA Miller for Congress; 8/27/2018, \$2,700, McSally, Martha VIA McSally for Senate; 9/12/2018, \$2,700, Braun, Mike VIA Mike Braun for Indiana; 9/12/2018, \$2,700, Braun, Mike VIA Mike Braun for Indiana; 9/21/2018, \$2,700, Romney, Mitt VIA Romney for Utah; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, Kim, Young VIA Young Kim for Congress; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, Handel, Karen VIA Handel for Congress; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, Chabot, Steve VIA Steve Chabot for Congress; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, Hagedorn, Jim VIA Friends of Hagedorn; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, Stauber, Pete VIA Pete Stauber for Congress; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, Gianforte, Greg VIA Greg for Montana; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, Arrington, Katie VIA Katie Arrington for Congress; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, Buetler, Herrera Jaime VIA Jaime for Congress; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, Miller, Carol VIA Carol for Congress; 10/23/2018, \$2,700, LaMalfa, Doug VIA Doug LaMalfa Committee; 1/29/2019, \$2,700, Daines, Steve VIA Steve Daines for Montana; 1/29/2019, \$2,700, Daines, Steve VIA Steve Daines for Montana; 1/29/2019, \$35,000, National Republican Senatorial Committee; 3/21/2019, \$5,000, US Chamber PAC; 3/21/2019, \$5,000, CoalPAC, A Political Action Committee of the National Mining Association.

Contributions to Independent Expenditure-Only Committees: 6/6/2016, \$1,000,000, American Crossroads; 8/05/2016, \$100,000, Kentuckians for Strong Leadership; 9/28/2016, \$125,000, Congressional Leadership Fund; 9/28/2016, \$750,000, Future45; 12/4/2017, \$500,000, US Chamber of Commerce; 3/20/2018, \$1,000,000, American Crossroads Senate Leadership Fund; 5/9/2018, \$50,000, American Opportunity Alliance; 5/10/2018, \$750,000, Congressional Leadership Fund; 8/3/2018, \$100,000, Kentuckians for Strong Leadership; 10/23/2018, \$250,000, US Chamber of Commerce; 10/23/2018, \$250,000, Senate Leadership Fund; 10/29/2018, \$1,000, Miners Dig It PAC; 1/29/2019, \$50,000, American Opportunity Alliance;

Contributions to Joint Fundraising Committees: 4/16/2015, \$5,400, Burr Toomey Victory Fund; 9/14/2015, \$43,800, Boehner for Speaker; 12/7/2015, \$5,400, Scalise Leadership Fund; 3/31/2016, \$43,800, Team Ryan; 7/11/2016, \$100,000, Trump Victory; 9/13/2016, \$65,400, Trump Victory; 12/12/2017, \$50,000, Team Ryan; 3/20/2018, \$50,000, Team Ryan; 8/3/2018, \$100,000, National Republican Senatorial Committee Targeted State Victory; 9/12/2018, \$5,400, Securing the Senate Majority Committee; 9/17/2018, \$5,400, Steil Victory Fund; 2/8/2019, \$50,000, Take Back the House Team McCarthy 2020.

Final Recipients of Joint Fundraising Committee Contributions: 6/10/2015, \$2,700,

Burr, Richard M. VIA Richard Burr Committee; 9/18/2015, \$2,700, Boehner, John A. VIA Friends of John Boehner; 9/18/2015, \$2,700, Boehner, John A. VIA Friends of John Boehner; 9/18/2015, \$5,000, Freedom Project; The; 9/18/2015, \$5,000, Freedom Project; The; 9/18/2015, \$33,400, NRCC; 9/18/2015, \$33,400, NRCC; 12/28/2015, \$2,700, Scalise, Steve VIA Scalise for Congress; 4/13/2016, \$10,800, NRCC; 4/13/2016, \$33,400, NRCC; 4/13/2016, \$5,000, Prosperity Action INC; 4/13/2016, \$2,700, Ryan, Paul D. VIA Ryan for Congress, INC.; 4/13/2016, \$2,700, Ryan, Paul D. VIA Ryan for Congress, INC.; 7/11/2016, \$5,912.50, Alabama Republican Party; 7/11/2016, \$5,912.50, California Republican Party Federal Account; 7/11/2016, \$6,327.50, Illinois Republican Party; 7/11/2016, \$5,912.50, Kansas Republican Party; 7/11/2016, \$3,036.36, Mississippi Republican Party; 7/11/2016, \$6,327.50, Missouri Republican State Committee - Federal; 7/11/2016, \$5,912.50, North Dakota Republican Party; 7/11/2016, \$3,036.36, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee; 7/11/2016, \$4,087.50, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee; 7/11/2016, \$6,327.50, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania; 7/11/2016, \$3,036.36, Republican Party of Arkansas; 7/11/2016, \$3,036.36, Republican Party of Louisiana; 7/11/2016, \$3,036.36, Republican Party of Virginia INC.; 7/11/2016, \$6,327.50, Republican Party of Wisconsin; 7/11/2016, \$2,700, Trump, Donald J. VIA Donald J. Trump for President, INC.; 7/11/2016, \$2,700, Trump, Donald J. VIA Donald J. Trump for President, INC.; 7/11/2016, \$3,036.36, West Virginia Republican Party, INC.; 9/15/2016, \$4,087.50, California Republican Party Federal Account; 9/15/2016, \$4,087.50, Kansas Republican Party; 9/15/2016, \$4,087.50, Mississippi Republican Party; 9/15/2016, \$4,087.50, Republican Party of Arkansas; 9/15/2016, \$4,087.50, Republican Party of Louisiana; 9/15/2016, \$4,087.50, Republican Party of Virginia INC; 9/15/2016, \$4,087.50, West Virginia Republican Party, INC.; 9/27/2016, \$3,036.36, South Carolina Republican Party; 9/30/2016, \$3,036.36, Connecticut Republican Party; 9/30/2016, \$4,087.50, Connecticut Republican Party; 9/30/2016, \$2,700, McConnell, Mitch VIA McConnell Senate Committee; 9/30/2016, \$3,036.36, New Jersey Republican State Committee; 9/30/2016, \$4,087.50, New Jersey Republican State Committee; 9/30/2016, \$4,087.50, Republican Party of Minnesota - Federal; 9/30/2016, \$4,087.50, South Carolina Republican Party; 9/30/2016, \$3,036.36, Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account; 9/30/2016, \$4,087.50, Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account; 10/17/2016, \$6,327.50, North Carolina Republican Party; 10/17/2016, \$5,912.50, Republican Party of Minnesota - Federal; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Republican Party of Arizona; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Republican Party of Florida; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Republican Party of Indiana; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Missouri Republican State Committee; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Republican Party of Montana; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Nevada Republican Central Committee; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Republican Party of North Dakota; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Republican Party of Ohio; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Republican Party of Tennessee; 8/3/2018, \$10,000, Republican Party of West Virginia; 9/12/2018, \$2,700, Hawley, Josh VIA Josh Hawley for Senate; 9/12/2018, \$2,700, McSally, Martha VIA McSally for Congress; 9/17/2018, \$2,700, Steil, Brian VIA Steil for Wisconsin; 9/17/2018, \$2,700, Republican Party of Wisconsin.

3. Stepson: Joseph W "JW" Craft IV: Direct Contributions to Federal Committees: 4/24/2015, \$5,000, Oklahoma Strong Leadership PAC; 2/29/2016, \$2,700, Rubio, Marco VIA Marco Rubio for President; 3/15/2016, \$5,400, Blunt, Roy VIA Friends of Roy Blunt; 3/28/2016, \$5,400, Cole, Tom VIA Cole for Congress;

4/12/2016, \$2,700, Comer, James VIA Comer for Congress; 1/2/2018, \$5,000, Alliance Coal PAC; 6/8/2018, \$2,700, Morrisey, Patrick VIA Morrisey for Senate; 6/11/2018, \$5,400, Scott, Rick VIA Rick Scott for Florida; 10/29/2018, \$25,000, National Republican Senatorial Committee; 2/21/2019, \$2,800, Cole, Tom VIA Tom Cole for Congress; 2/21/2019, \$2,800, Cole, Tom VIA Tom Cole for Congress.

Contributions to Joint Fundraising Committees: 9/18/2015, \$43,800, Boehner for Speaker; 4/13/2016, \$10,800, Team Ryan; 8/1/2016, \$2,700, McConnell for Majority Leader Committee.

4. Stepdaughter-in-Law: Mollie Craft: Direct Contributions to Federal Committees: 4/24/2015, \$5,000, Oklahoma Strong Leadership PAC; 3/3/2016, \$2,700, Rubio, Marco VIA Marco Rubio for President; 3/15/2016, \$2,100, Blunt, Roy VIA Friends of Roy Blunt; 3/29/2016, \$2,100, Cole, Tom VIA Cole for Congress; 6/11/2018, \$5,400, Scott, Rick VIA Rick Scott for Florida.

Contributions to Joint Fundraising Committees: 9/18/2015, \$43,800, Boehner for Speaker.

Final Recipients of Joint Fundraising Committee Contributions: 9/18/2015, \$2,700, NRCC; 9/18/2015, \$2,700, Boehner, John A. VIA Friends of John Boehner; 9/18/2015, \$5,000, Freedom Project; The; 9/18/2015, \$33,400, NRCC.

5. Stepson: Ryan Edward Craft: Direct Contributions to Federal Committees: 4/22/2015, \$5,000, Oklahoma Strong Leadership PAC; 4/18/2016, \$2,700, Comer, James VIA Comer for Congress; 8/7/2016, \$5,400, Rubio, Marco VIA Marco Rubio for Senate.

Contributions to Joint Fundraising Committees: 4/24/2015, \$5,400, Burr Toomey Victory Fund; 5/5/2016, \$5,400, Team Ryan.

Final Recipients of Joint Fundraising Committee Contributions: 6/4/2015, \$2,700, Toomey, Patrick Joseph VIA Friends of Pat Toomey; 6/10/2015, \$2,700, Burr, Richard M. VIA Richard Burr Committee; The; 5/5/2016, \$2,700, Ryan, Paul D. VIA Ryan for Congress, INC.; 5/5/2016, \$2,700, Ryan, Paul D. VIA Ryan for Congress, INC.;

6. Stepdaughter-in-law: Lauren Craft: Direct Contributions to Federal Committees: 4/22/2015, \$5,000, Oklahoma Strong Leadership PAC; 4/18/2016, \$2,700, Comer James VIA Comer for Congress; 8/7/2016, \$5,400, Rubio, Marco VIA Marco Rubio for Senate.

Contributions to Joint Fundraising Committees: 4/24/2015, \$5,400, Burr Toomey Victory Fund; 5/5/2016, \$5,400, Team Ryan.

Final Recipients of Joint Fundraising Committee Contributions: 6/4/2015, \$2,700, Toomey, Patrick Joseph VIA Friends of Pat Toomey; 6/10/2015, \$2,700, Burr, Richard M. VIA Richard Burr Committee; The; 5/5/2016, \$2,700, Ryan, Paul D. VIA Ryan for Congress, INC.; 5/5/2016, \$2,700, Ryan, Paul D. VIA Ryan for Congress, INC.

7. Brother: Marc Guilfoil: No contributions.

8. Daughter: Mia Moross Blumberg: Direct Contributions to Federal Committees: 2018, \$450, Hoar, Will VIA Will Hoar for Congress.

9. Son-in-Law: Stuart Blumberg: Direct Contributions to Federal Committees: 2018, \$450, Hoar, Will VIA Will Hoar for Congress.

10. Son-in-Law: Wyatt Melzer: No contributions.

11. Sister-in-Law: Elisabeth Jensen: Direct Contributions to Federal Committees: 2/28/2015, \$98,142.43, Jensen, Elizabeth VIA Elizabeth Jensen for Congress; 4/26/2018, \$1,000, McGrath, Amy VIA Amy McGrath for Congress; 10/9/2018, \$500, McGrath, Amy VIA Amy McGrath for Congress.

12. Sister: Micah Guilfoil: Direct Contributions to Federal Committees: 1/26/2016, \$100, Gray, Jim VIA Jim Gray for Kentucky; 8/2/2017, \$100, McGrath, Amy VIA Amy McGrath for Congress; 6/23/2018, \$25, Hegar, MJ VIA MJ

for Texas; 9/11/2018, \$25, O'Rourke, Beto VIA Beto for Texas; 9/11/2018, \$25, McGrath, Amy VIA Amy McGrath for Congress; 1/6/2019, \$25, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

13. Grandparents: (N/A, deceased): No contributions.

14. Brother-in-Law: Bruce Payne: No contributions.

15. Daughter: Jane Knight: No contributions.

16. Stepdaughter: Caroline Craft Fiddes: No contributions.

17. Stepson-in-Law: Mark Fiddes: No contributions.

18. Stepson: Kyle O'Keefe Craft: No contributions.

19. Mother: Sherry D. Guilfoil (deceased): No contributions.

20. Father: Bobby Austin Guilfoil (deceased): No contributions.

Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Colombia.

Nominee: Philip S. Goldberg.

Post: Colombia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: N/A.

3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

4. Parents: N/A.

5. Grandparents: N/A.

6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Donna G. Eskind and Jeffrey Eskind (See attachment).

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS

DONNA GOLDBERG ESKIND, NASHVILLE TN (SISTER)

2019

Believe in Service, \$1000.

2017–2018

Believe in Service, \$2500; Bredesen for Senate, \$2700; Bredesen for Senate, \$2,700; James Mackler for Senate, \$1,700; Act Blue, \$25; Act Blue, \$50; James Mackler for Senate, \$1,000.

2016–2017

Hillary for America, \$2,652; Hillary for America, \$48; Hillary for America, \$24.72; Hillary for America, \$10; Hillary for America, \$10.

2015–2015

None.

DR. JEFFREY ESKIND, NASHVILLE, TN (BROTHER-IN-LAW)

2017–2018

Believe in Service, \$2500; Bredesen for Senate, \$2700; Bredesen for Senate, \$2700.

2016–2016

Hillary for America, \$2700.

2014–2015

Republican National Committee, \$10,000; Massachusetts Victory Committee, \$10,000.

Jessica E. Lapenn, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Nominee: Jessica E. Lapenn.

Post: U.S. Mission to the African Union.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$31.55, 6/15/16, Hilary Victory Fund; \$600, 6/15/16, Hilary Victory Fund.

2. Spouse: N/A.

3. Children: Jasper Lapenn: none.

4. Parents: James A. Lapenn: 150, 9/16/15, HANYS PAC—Health Assoc. of NYS & Allied Associate PACS; 150, 12/9/16, HANYS PAC; 50, 10/1/17, Friends of Tom Carty—Hillsdale NY; 150, 10/16/17, HANYS PAC; 100, 4/21/18, Hillsdale NY Democratic Club; 50, 7/20/18, Hillsdale NY Democratic Club; 250, 8/22/18, Delgado for Congress; 150, 8/27/18, HANYS PAC; 250, 9/20/18, Act Blue. Joyces. Lapenn: 100, 4/21/17, Hillsdale NY Democratic Club; 250, 8/22/18, Delgado for Congress; 100, 10/9/18, Act Blue; 100, 10/9/18, Act Blue; 150, 10/14/18, Act Blue; 25, 10/27/28, Act Blue; 25, 10/27/18, Act Blue; 10, 9/20/18, Columbia County (NY) Democrats; 10, 10/04/18, Columbia County (NY) Democrats; 10, 11/01/18, Columbia County (NY) Democrats; 10, 12/2/18, Columbia County (NY) Democrats; 10, 1/4/19, Columbia County (NY) Democrats; 10, 2/1/19, Columbia County (NY) Democrats; 10, 3/1/19, Columbia County (NY) Democrats; 10, 4/1/19, Columbia County (NY) Democrats; 50, 4/4/19, Columbia County (NY) Democrats; 10, 5/1/19, Columbia County (NY) Democrats.

5. Grandparents: Thelma J. Lapenn—Deceased; David Lapenn—Deceased; Hilda Sankel—Deceased; Abraham Sankel—Deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.

7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

Mary Beth Leonard, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Nominee: Mary Beth Leonard.

Post: Nigeria.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, Donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: N/A.

3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

4. Parents: Earl W. Leonard—(deceased); Margaret M. Leonard, None.

5. Grandparents: Thomas F. Leonard—(deceased); Florence Leonard—(deceased); Joseph Mastrorio—(deceased); Catherine A. Mastrorio—(deceased).

6. Brothers and Spouses: Michael Leonard—(deceased).

7. Sisters and Spouses: Claire M. and William K. McIntire, none; Ann Marie and David N. Stoica, none.

Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Jennifer M. Adams and ending with Sarah-Ann Lynch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2019.

Foreign Service nomination of William S. Martin.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Christine Byrne and ending with Robert Mason, which nominations were received by

the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2019.

Michelle A. Bekkering, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with James J. Higgiston and ending with Bobby G. Richey, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 21, 2019.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Uchenna Nnayelugo Agu and ending with Jaime Alber Zea Cifuentes, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 21, 2019. (minus 1 nominee: Courtney L. Lacroix)

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Jennifer Ann Amos and ending with Michael L. Mahoney, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 21, 2019. (minus 1 nominee: Jay P. Williams)

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Allison Margaret Bartels and ending with Yang Q. Zhou, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 21, 2019.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Vanessa L. Adams and ending with Lyndsey K. Yoshino-Spencer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 21, 2019.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Sonja Joy Andersen and ending with Sandra M. Zuniga Guzman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 21, 2019.

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

*David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 2261. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue Clean Energy Victory Bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HASSAN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2262. A bill to provide for phased-in payment of Social Security Disability Insurance

payments during the waiting period for individuals with a terminal illness; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2263. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the requirements for secure geological storage of carbon oxide for purposes of the carbon oxide sequestration credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2264. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require the impaneling of a new jury if a jury fails to recommend by unanimous vote a sentence for conviction of a crime punishable by death; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2265. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the work-study allowance program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 2266. A bill to extend group flood insurance policy assistance for victims of the 2016 West Virginia floods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 2267. A bill for the relief of Cesar Carlos Silva Rodriguez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2268. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive remuneration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 2269. A bill to establish a competitive bidding process for the relocation of the headquarters of Executive agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 2270. A bill to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to promote timely exploration for geothermal resources under geothermal leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 2271. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a program to improve infrastructure development in Appalachia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 2272. A bill to provide for the implementation of a system of licensing for purchasers of certain firearms and for a record of sale system for those firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2273. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2274. A bill to establish a voluntary program that strengthens the economy, public health, and environment of the United States by reducing emissions from wood

heaters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 2275. A bill to improve the collection and distribution of broadband availability data; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 2276. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect employees in the building and construction industry who are participants in multiemployer plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2277. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to make innovative technology loan guarantees available for battery storage technologies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 2278. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules requiring the inclusion of new safety equipment in school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2279. A bill to make necessary reforms to improve compliance with loss mitigation requirements by servicers of mortgages for single family housing insured by the FHA, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 2280. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an Appalachian regional energy hub initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2281. A bill to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2282. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to enable Indian Tribes and tribally designated housing entities to apply for, receive, and administer grants and subgrants under the Continuum of Care Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2283. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment tax credit for waste heat to power technology; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2284. A bill to create a Climate Action Rebate Fund in order to efficiently reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide a monthly rebate to the American people, encourage innovation of clean energy technologies and create new economic opportunities, ensure the resiliency of our infrastructure, assist with the transition to a clean energy economy, and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 2285. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize a pilot program within the nationally significant freight and highway projects program to increase State

infrastructure investments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2286. A bill to establish a Science Advisory Board at the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2287. A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other statutes to clarify appropriate liability standards for Federal antidiscrimination claims; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2288. A bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for electricity and natural gas suppliers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. UDALL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COONS, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2289. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the energy credit and the credit for residential energy efficient property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2290. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit for expenditures to provide access to disabled individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 2291. A bill to require all newly constructed, federally assisted, single-family houses and town houses to meet minimum standards of visitability for persons with disabilities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2292. A bill to require asylum officers to conduct credible fear screenings before admitting aliens seeking asylum into the United States, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an alternatives to detention pilot program, and to clarify that aliens transiting through third countries on the way to the United States are ineligible for asylum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2293. A bill to extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank of the United States and to modify the quorum requirement of the Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2294. A bill to establish the Office of Disability Policy in the legislative branch; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN,

Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2295. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2296. A bill to reauthorize the Pregnancy Assistance Fund; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2297. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2298. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate the corn ethanol mandate for renewable fuel; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2299. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety and reliability of pipeline transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2300. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to establish a program to incentivize innovation and to enhance the industrial competitiveness of the United States by developing technologies to reduce emissions of nonpower industrial sectors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2301. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide disaster assistance to States, insular areas, units of general local government, and Indian tribes under a community development block grant disaster recovery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 284. A resolution calling upon the United States Senate to give its advice and consent to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 285. A resolution designating September 2019 as "School Bus Safety Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. SASSE):

S. Res. 286. A resolution designating July 26, 2019, as "United States Intelligence Professionals Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 157

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 157, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit kindergarten through grade 12 educational expenses to be paid from a 529 account.

S. 286

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 286, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors 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 Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) 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. 775

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend the America COMPETES Act to require

certain agencies to develop scientific integrity policies, and for other purposes.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to deter foreign interference in United States elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1141, a bill to provide predictability and certainty in the tax law, create jobs, and encourage investment.

S. 1162

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1162, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the individual tax provisions of the tax reform law, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1172, a bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

S. 1385

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1385, a bill to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr.

GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1441, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the provision of certain vessels for the construction of Russian energy export pipelines, and for other purposes.

S. 1527

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct, and submit to Congress a report describing the results of, an assessment of the total amount of nonhighway recreational fuel taxes received by the Secretary of the Treasury and transferred to the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1575

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1575, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to make available to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention copies of consular reports of death of United States citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 1637

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1637, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to reaffirm the authority of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, and for other purposes.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of PROMESA.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1953

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1953, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to extend the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to include the setting of reference prices for aluminum premiums, and for other purposes.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1982, a bill to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2034

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2034, a bill to authorize small business development centers to provide cybersecurity assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2054, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2066

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2066, a bill to review United States Saudi Arabia Policy, and for other purposes.

S. 2080

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

S. 2147

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2147, a bill to double the existing penalties for the provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and to extend the statute of limitations for forfeiture penalties for persons who commit such violations.

S. 2166

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 2166, a bill to designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2177

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2177, a bill to provide taxpayers with an improved understanding of Government programs through the disclosure of cost, performance, and areas of duplication among them, leverage existing data to achieve a functional Federal program inventory, and for other purposes.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2203

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2203, a bill to extend the transfer of Electronic Travel Authorization System fees from the Travel Promotion Fund to the Corporation for Travel Promotion (Brand USA) through fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes.

S. 2222

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2222, a bill to prohibit the Export-Import Bank of the United States from providing financing to persons with seriously delinquent tax debt.

S. 2223

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2223, a bill to facilitate a national pipeline of spectrum for commercial use, and for other purposes.

S. 2240

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2240, a bill to promote digital citizenship and media literacy.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2240, supra.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2250, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish State and Indian tribe grants for community colleges and grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2253

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2253, a bill to amend chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, to provide pay equity for amateur athletes and other personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2256

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2256, a bill to protect children affected by immigration enforcement actions.

S. 2260

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2260, a bill to provide for the improvement of domestic infrastructure in order to prevent marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 112

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 112, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children.

S. RES. 142

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 142, a resolution condemning the Government of the Philippines for its continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima, calling for her immediate release, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2268. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive remuneration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am introducing the Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonuses Act with Senators BLUMENTHAL, WHITEHOUSE, MERKLEY, BALDWIN, WARREN, VAN HOLLEN, and BROWN. This legislation would end special tax deductions for huge executive bonuses by closing a

loophole that still allows publicly traded corporations to deduct the cost of multimillion-dollar bonuses from their corporate tax bills. U.S. taxpayers shouldn't have to subsidize these massive bonuses.

Under section 162(m) of the tax code as amended by the 2017 Trump tax law (TCJA), when a publicly traded corporation calculates its taxable income, it is generally permitted to deduct the cost of compensation from its revenues, with limits up to \$1 million for some of the firm's most senior executives.

In the last Congress, the TCJA closed some of the pre-existing 162(m) loopholes by incorporating provisions from my Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonuses Act, including removing the exemption for performance-based compensation, which previously permitted compensation deductions above \$1 million when executives met performance benchmarks set by the corporation's Board of Directors.

In addition, a technical correction from my bill to ensure that all publicly traded corporations that are required to provide quarterly and annual reports to their investors under Securities and Exchange Commission rules and regulations are subject to section 162(m) was also included in the TCJA. Previously, this section of the tax code only covered some publicly traded corporations who are required to provide these periodic reports to their shareholders.

While these were positive steps, even more should have been done, such as applying section 162(m) to all employees of publicly traded corporations so that all compensation is subject to a deductibility cap of \$1 million. This was the lone provision from my Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonuses Act from the 115th Congress that was not incorporated into the Trump tax law.

Partially closing these 162(m) loopholes saved taxpayers \$9.2 billion according to the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT), but according to Americans for Tax Fairness, "Extending the \$1 million deductibility cap to all forms of compensation for all employees might generate about \$20 billion over 10 years. This is based on JCT's original \$50 billion revenue estimate, discounted to \$30 billion because of the 40% corporate tax cut, and subtracting the \$9.2 billion already being raised by the TCJA's partial reform."

This is why we are introducing a revised version of the Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonuses Act to finish what was started. Our legislation would extend section 162(m) to all employees of publicly traded corporations so that all compensation is subject to a deductibility cap of \$1 million. Publicly traded corporations would still be permitted to pay their executives as much as they desire, but compensation above and beyond \$1 million would no longer be subsidized by other hardworking taxpayers through our tax code.

Our legislation tackles this issue head on by ending the public subsidy of excessive executive compensation. This is simply a matter of fairness, ensuring that corporations—and not hardworking taxpayers who face their own challenges in this economy—are paying for the multi-million dollar bonuses corporations have decided to dole out to their senior executives.

We need to prioritize tax breaks that grow our economy and strengthen the middle class, and this bill helps eliminate some of the unfairness in the tax code.

I thank Public Citizen, the Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project, Americans for Financial Reform, the AFL-CIO, and MIT Professor Simon Johnson for their support. I also want to thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for working with me on this issue, and I urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2281. A bill to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Inventor Diversity for Economic Advancement Act of 2019. I thank my colleague from North Carolina, Senator TILLIS, for working with me on this important piece of legislation, which serves as a first step to closing the diversity gap in our patent system by collecting demographic data on patent applicants.

Women and racial minorities have made some of the most significant inventions in this country's history. The \$75 billion home security industry grew from an initial home security system invented by Marie Van Brittan Brown. The computer would never have become the multimedia device it is today without the microcomputer system invented by Mark Dean. The genetic revolution would still be science fiction if not for the CRISPR gene-editing tool discovered by Jennifer Doudna—raised on Hawaii's Big Island.

We should celebrate these inventors and the many others like them who have contributed to innovation in this country. But we must also recognize the hard truth that women, racial minorities, and many other groups are greatly underrepresented in the U.S. patent system.

The Patent and Trademark Office's recent report on women inventors shines a spotlight on one part of this problem. The PTO found that only 21 percent of U.S. patents list a woman as an inventor and that women make up only 12 percent of all inventors. This is true even though women held 43 percent of all full-time jobs in 2016 and 28 percent of STEM jobs in 2015.

Other reports highlight racial and income patent gaps. For example, a report by the Institute for Women's Policy Research found that the percentage

of African American and Hispanic college graduates who hold patents is approximately half that of their white counterparts. Another report found that children born into families with incomes below the median U.S. income are 90 percent less likely to receive a patent in their lifetimes than those born into wealthier families.

Closing these gaps would turbocharge our economy. According to a study by Michigan State University Professor Lisa Cook, including more women and African Americans in the “initial stage of the process of innovation” could increase GDP by as much as \$640 billion. Another study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that eliminating the patent gap for women with science and engineering degrees alone would increase GDP by over \$500 billion.

It’s simply good policy and good business to want to fully integrate people of all types into our innovation economy.

But if we have any hope of closing the various patent gaps, we must first get a firm grasp on the scope of the problem.

Studies of the demographic makeup of patentees, like the ones I described, are few and far between. The reason is a simple one. A lack of data. The PTO does not collect any data on applicants beyond their first and last names and city, state, and country of residence. As a result, those wishing to study patent gaps between different demographic groups are forced to guess the gender of an applicant based on his or her name, determine the race or income status of an applicant by cross-referencing census data, or explore a number of other options that are time-consuming, unreliable, or both.

The IDEA Act solves this problem. It would require the PTO to collect demographic data—including gender, race, military or veteran status, and income level, among others—from patent applicants on a voluntary basis. It would further require the PTO to issue reports on the data collected and, perhaps more importantly, make the data available to the public with appropriate protections for personally identifiable information. Outside researchers could therefore conduct their own analyses and offer insights into the various patent gaps in our society.

Let me be clear. Closing the information gap facing researchers alone will not solve the patent gap facing women, racial minorities, and so many others. But it is a critical first step. I therefore encourage my colleagues to support the IDEA Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 284—CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO GIVE ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 284

Whereas the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in December 1982, and entered into force in November 1994 to establish a treaty regime to govern activities on, over, and under the world’s oceans;

Whereas UNCLOS builds on four 1958 Law of the Sea conventions to which the United States is a party, including the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, the Convention on the High Seas, the Convention on the Continental Shelf, and the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas;

Whereas the treaty and an associated 1994 agreement relating to implementation of the treaty were transmitted to the Senate on October 6, 1994, and, in the absence of Senate advice and consent to adherence, the United States is not a party to the convention and the associated 1994 agreement;

Whereas the convention has been ratified by 167 parties, which includes 166 countries and the European Union, but not the United States;

Whereas the United States, like most other countries, believes that coastal states under UNCLOS have the right to regulate economic activities in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), but do not have the right to regulate foreign military activities in their EEZs;

Whereas the treaty’s provisions relating to navigational rights, including those in EEZs, reflect the United States diplomatic position on the issue dating back to UNCLOS’s adoption in 1982;

Whereas becoming a party to the treaty would reinforce the United States perspective into permanent international law;

Whereas becoming a party to the treaty would give the United States standing to participate in discussions relating to the treaty and thereby improve the United States ability to intervene as a full party to disputes relating to navigational rights, and to defend United States interpretations of the treaty’s provisions, including those relating to whether coastal states have a right under UNCLOS to regulate foreign military activities in their EEZs;

Whereas relying on customary international norms to defend United States interests in these issues is not sufficient, because it is not universally accepted and is subject to change over time based on state practice;

Whereas relying on other countries to assert claims on behalf of the United States at the Hague Convention is woefully insufficient to defend and uphold United States sovereign rights and interests;

Whereas the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in their July 12, 2016, ruling on the case in the matter of the South China Sea Arbitration, stated, “the Tribunal forwarded to the Parties for their comment a Note Verbale from the Embassy of the United States of America, requesting to send a rep-

resentative to observe the hearing”, and “the Tribunal communicated to the Parties and the U.S. Embassy that it had decided that ‘only interested States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will be admitted as observers’ and thus could not accede to the U.S. request.”;

Whereas, on November 25, 2018, the Russian Federation violated international norms and binding agreements, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in firing upon, ramming, and seizing Ukrainian vessels and crews attempting to pass through the Kerch Strait;

Whereas, on May 25, 2019, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ruled in a vote of 19–1 that “the Russian Federation shall immediately release the Ukrainian naval vessels Berdyansk, Nikopol and Yani Kapu, and return them to the custody of Ukraine,” and that “the Russian Federation shall immediately release the 24 detained Ukrainian servicemen and allow them to return to Ukraine,” demonstrating the Tribunal’s rejection of Russia’s arguments in this matter in relation to the Law of the Sea;

Whereas, despite the Tribunal’s ruling aligning with the United States Government’s position on the incident, the United States continued nonparticipation in UNCLOS limits the United States ability to effectively respond to Russia’s actions in the November 25, 2018, incident, as well as to any potential future violations by the Russian Federation and any other signatory of UNCLOS;

Whereas the confirmed nominee and future Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Bill Moran, stated that “becoming a party to the Convention would reinforce freedom of the seas and the navigational rights vital to our global force posture in the world’s largest maneuver space. Joining the Convention would also demonstrate our commitment to the rule of law, and strengthen our credibility with other Convention parties,” in response to advance policy questions on April 30, 2019, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, stated, “the UNCLOS treaty guarantees rights such as innocent passage through territorial seas; transit passage through, under and over international straits; and the laying and maintaining of submarine cables,” and “the convention has been approved by nearly every maritime power and all the permanent members of the UN Security Council, except the United States”, on February 16, 2012, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, further stated, “Our notable absence as a signatory weakens our position with other nations, allowing the introduction of expansive definitions of sovereignty on the high seas that undermine our ability to defend our mineral rights along our own continental shelf and in the Arctic.”, and “the Department strongly supports the accession to UNCLOS, an action consistently recommended by my predecessors of both parties”, on February 16, 2012, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past President and current Chief Executive Officer of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Thomas J. Donahue, stated, “we support joining the Convention because it is in our national interest—both in our national security and our economic interests”, and, “becoming a party to the Treaty benefits the U.S. economically by providing American companies the legal certainty and stability they need to hire and invest”, and, “companies will be hesitant to

take on the investment risk and cost to explore and develop the resources of the sea—particularly on the extended continental shelf (ECS)—without the legal certainty and stability accession to LOS provides”, on June 28, 2012, before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

Whereas the past President and current Chief Executive Officer of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Thomas J. Donahue, further stated, “the benefits of joining cut across many important industries including telecommunications, mining, shipping, and oil and natural gas”, and, “joining the Convention will provide the U.S. a critical voice on maritime issues—from mineral claims in the Arctic to how International Seabed Authority (ISA) funds are distributed”, on June 28, 2012, before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commander of United States Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel J. Locklear, stated that UNCLOS is “widely accepted after a lot of years of deliberation by many, many countries, most countries in my Area of Responsibility (AOR)”, and, “when we’re not a signatory, it reduces our overall credibility when we bring it up as a choice of how you might solve a dispute of any kind”, on April 16, 2015, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, retired Admiral Paul Zukunft, stated on February 12, 2016, “With the receding of the icepack, the Arctic Ocean has become the focus of international interest.”, and “All Arctic states agree that the Law of the Sea Convention is the governing legal regime for the Arctic Ocean . . . yet, we remain the only Arctic nation that has not ratified the very instrument that provides this accepted legal framework governing the Arctic Ocean and its seabed.”, and “Ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention supports our economic interests, environmental protection, and safety of life at sea, especially in the Arctic Ocean.”;

Whereas the past Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, further stated, “remaining outside Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) is inconsistent with our principles, our national security strategy and our leadership in commerce and trade”, and, “virtually every major ally of the U.S. is a party to LOSC, as are all other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all other Arctic nations”, on June 14, 2012, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, further stated, “our absence [from LOSC] could provide an excuse for nations to selectively choose among Convention provisions or abandon it altogether, thereby eroding the navigational freedoms we enjoy today”, and, “accession would enhance multilateral operations with our partners and demonstrate a clear commitment to the rule of law for the oceans”, on June 14, 2012, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the United States Special Representative of State for the Arctic and former Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., stated, “as a non-party to the Law of the Sea Convention, the U.S. is at a significant disadvantage relative to the other Arctic Ocean coastal States”, and, “those States are parties to the Convention, and are well along the path to obtaining legal certainty and international recognition of their Arctic extended continental shelf”, and, “becoming a Party to the Law of the Sea Convention would allow the United States to fully secure its rights to the continental shelf off the coast of Alaska, which is likely to extend out to more than 600 nau-

tical miles”, on December 10, 2014, before the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

Whereas the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph F. Dunford, stated, “The Convention provides legal certainty in the world’s largest maneuver space.”, and, “access would strengthen the legal foundation for our ability to transit through international straits and archipelagic waters; preserve our right to conduct military activities in other countries’ Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) without notice or permission; reaffirm the sovereign immunity of warships; provide a framework to counter excessive maritime claims; and preserve or operations and intelligence-collection activities”, and, “joining the Convention would also demonstrate our commitment to the rule of law, strengthen our credibility among those nations that are already party to the Convention, and allow us to bring the full force of our influence in challenging excessive maritime claims”, on July 9, 2015, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Chairman of the Joints Chief of Staff, General Joseph F. Dunford, further stated, “by remaining outside the Convention, the United States remains in scarce company with Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, and Syria”, and, “by failing to join the Convention, some countries may come to doubt our commitment to act in accordance with international law”, on July 9, 2015, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral John M. Richardson, stated, “acceding to the Convention would strengthen our credibility and strategic position”, and, “we undermine our leverage by not signing up to the same rule book by which we are asking other countries to accept”, on July 30, 2015, in his nomination hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral John M. Richardson, further stated, “that becoming a part of [UNCLOS] would give us a great deal of credibility, and particularly as it pertains to the unfolding opportunities in the Arctic”, and, “this provides a framework to adjudicate disputes”, on July 30, 2015, in his nomination hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, the Honorable David Shear, stated, “that while the United States operates consistent with the United Nations convention on the Law of the Sea, we’ve seen positive momentum in promoting shared rules of the road”, and, “our efforts would be greatly strengthened by Senate ratification of UNCLOS”, on September 17, 2015, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Philip S. Davidson, stated “our accession to the UNCLOS would help our position legally across the globe and would do nothing to limit our military operations in the manner in which we’re conducting them now”, on April 17, 2018, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commander of United States Pacific Command, retired Admiral Harry B. Harris, stated “I believe that UNCLOS gives Russia the potential to, quote, unquote ‘own’ almost half of the Arctic Circle, and we will not have that opportunity because of, we’re not a signatory to UNCLOS,” on March 15, 2018, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

Whereas the past Commander of United States Pacific Command, Admiral Harry B. Harris, stated “I think that by not signing onto it that we lose the creditability for the very same thing that we’re arguing for”, and “which is the following—accepting rules and norms in the international arena. The United States is a beacon—we’re a beacon on a hill but I think that light is brighter if we sign on to UNCLOS”, on February 23, 2016, at a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that it is in the national interest for the United States to become a formal signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(2) urges the United States Senate to give its advice and consent to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and

(3) recommends the ratification of UNCLOS remain a top priority for the Administration, having received bipartisan support from every President since 1994, and having most recently been underscored by the strategic challenges the United States faces in the Asia-Pacific, the Arctic, and the Black Sea regions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 285—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH”

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 285

Whereas, every school day in the United States, approximately 500,000 public and private school buses carry more than 26,000,000 children to and from school;

Whereas school buses comprise the largest mass transportation fleet in the United States;

Whereas 48 percent of all K–12 students ride a school bus for each of the 180 school days in a year, totaling nearly 4,680,000,000 miles driven in school buses annually;

Whereas the Child Safety Network, celebrating 30 years of national public service, supports the CSN Safe Bus campaign, which is designed to provide the latest training, technology, and free safety and security resources to the school bus industry;

Whereas the designation of School Bus Safety Month will allow broadcast and digital media and social networking industries to make commitments to disseminate public service announcements that are produced in order—

(1) to provide free resources designed to safeguard children;

(2) to recognize school bus drivers and professionals; and

(3) to encourage the driving public to engage in safer driving behavior near school buses when students are boarding and disembarking from the school buses;

Whereas key leaders who are deserving of recognition during School Bus Safety Month and beyond have provided security awareness training materials to more than 14,000 public and private school districts, trained more than 100,000 school bus operators, and provided more than 150,000 counterterrorism guides to individuals who are key to providing both safety and security for children in the United States; and

Whereas School Bus Safety Month offers the Senate and the people of the United States an opportunity to recognize and thank all of the school bus drivers in the United States and the professionals who are focused on school bus safety and security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2019 as “School Bus Safety Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 286—DESIGNATING JULY 26, 2019, AS “UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS DAY”

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. SASSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 286

Whereas on July 26, 1908, Attorney General Charles Bonaparte ordered newly-hired Federal investigators to report to the Office of the Chief Examiner of the Department of Justice, which subsequently was renamed the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas on July 26, 1947, President Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), creating the Department of Defense, the National Security Council, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thereby laying the foundation for today’s intelligence community;

Whereas the National Security Act of 1947, which appears in title 50, United States Code, governs the definition, composition, responsibilities, authorities, and oversight of the intelligence community of the United States;

Whereas the intelligence community is defined by section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003) to include the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, other offices within the Department of Defense for the collection of specialized national intelligence through reconnaissance programs, the intelligence elements of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury, the elements of the Department of Homeland Security concerned with the analysis of intelligence information, and other elements as may be designated;

Whereas July 26, 2019, is the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

Whereas the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 118 Stat. 3638) created the position of the Director of National Intelligence to serve as the head of the intelligence community and to ensure that national intelligence be timely, objective, independent of political considerations, and based upon all sources available;

Whereas Congress has previously passed joint resolutions, signed by the President, to designate Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, Patriot Day on September 11, and other commemorative occasions, to honor the sacrifices of law enforcement officers and of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the United States has increasingly relied upon the men and women of the intelligence community to protect and defend the security of the United States in the years since the attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas the men and women of the intelligence community, both civilian and military, have been increasingly called upon to deploy to theaters of war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere since September 11, 2001;

Whereas numerous intelligence officers of the elements of the intelligence community have been injured or killed in the line of duty;

Whereas intelligence officers of the United States are routinely called upon to accept personal hardship and sacrifice in the furtherance of their mission to protect the United States, to undertake dangerous assignments in the defense of the interests of the United States, to collect reliable information within prescribed legal authorities upon which the leaders of the United States rely in life-and-death situations, and to “speak truth to power” by providing their best assessments to decision makers, regardless of political and policy considerations;

Whereas the men and women of the intelligence community have on numerous occasions succeeded in preventing attacks upon the United States and allies of the United States, saving numerous innocent lives; and

Whereas intelligence officers of the United States must of necessity often remain unknown and unrecognized for their substantial achievements and successes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 26, 2019, as “United States Intelligence Professionals Day”;

(2) acknowledges the courage, fidelity, sacrifice, and professionalism of the men and women of the intelligence community of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 930. Mr. SCOTT, of Florida (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3253, to provide for certain extensions with respect to the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 930. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3253, to provide for certain extensions with respect to the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Sustaining Excellence in Medicaid Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE 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), as amended by Public Law 116-29, is amended by striking “July 14, 2019” and inserting “September 13, 2019”.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PROTECTION FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS OF HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AGAINST SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “December 31, 2019”.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C.

1396r-5 note) or section 1902(a)(17) or 1924 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(17), 1396r-5) shall be construed as prohibiting a State from applying an income or resource disregard under a methodology authorized under section 1902(r)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(r)(2))—

(1) to the income or resources of an individual described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(VI) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(VI)) (including a disregard of the income or resources of such individual’s spouse); or

(2) on the basis of an individual’s need for home and community-based services authorized under subsection (c), (d), (i), or (k) of section 1915 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n) or under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315).

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON REBALANCING DEMONSTRATION.

Section 6071(h)(1)(F) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking “\$132,000,000” and inserting “\$254,500,000”.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.

Section 501(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)(vii), by striking “and 2019” and inserting “through 2024”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “fiscal years 2018 and 2019” and inserting “fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

SEC. 6. REDUCED WHOLESALE ACQUISITION COST (WAC)-BASED PAYMENTS FOR NEW DRUGS AND BIOLOGICALS.

Section 1847A(c)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3a(c)(4)) is amended by striking “payable under this section for the drug or biological based on—” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “payable under this section—

“(A) in the case of a drug or biological furnished prior to January 1, 2019, based on—

“(i) the wholesale acquisition cost; or

“(ii) the methodologies in effect under this part on November 1, 2003, to determine payment amounts for drugs or biologicals; and

“(B) in the case of a drug or biological furnished on or after January 1, 2019—

“(i) at an amount not to exceed 103 percent of the wholesale acquisition cost; or

“(ii) based on the methodologies in effect under this part on November 1, 2003, to determine payment amounts for drugs or biologicals.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 24,

2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing pending military nominations.

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, July 25, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 9:30 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, July 25, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Florida.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, Executive Calendar No. 125.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Joseph V. Cuffari, of Arizona, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, 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 related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cuffari nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3877

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H.R. 3877, it be placed on the calendar and not be required to lay over a day before a motion to proceed is in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EMPOWERING BENEFICIARIES, ENSURING ACCESS, AND STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3253.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3253) to provide for certain extensions with respect to the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Blunt substitute amendment at the desk be considered and 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. 930) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sustaining Excellence in Medicaid Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE 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), as amended by Public Law 116-29, is amended by striking "July 14, 2019" and inserting "September 13, 2019".

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PROTECTION FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS OF HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AGAINST SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note) is amended by striking "September 30, 2019" and inserting "December 31, 2019".

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note) or section 1902(a)(17) or 1924 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(17), 1396r-5) shall be construed as prohibiting a State from applying an income or resource disregard under a methodology authorized under section 1902(r)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(r)(2))—

(1) to the income or resources of an individual described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(VI) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(VI)) (including a disregard of the income or resources of such individual's spouse); or

(2) on the basis of an individual's need for home and community-based services authorized under subsection (c), (d), (i), or (k) of section 1915 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n) or

under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315).

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON REBALANCING DEMONSTRATION.

Section 6071(h)(1)(F) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking "\$132,000,000" and inserting "\$254,500,000".

SEC. 5. EXTENSION FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.

Section 501(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)(vii), by striking "and 2019" and inserting "through 2024"; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking "fiscal years 2018 and 2019" and inserting "fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter".

SEC. 6. REDUCED WHOLESALE ACQUISITION COST (WAC)-BASED PAYMENTS FOR NEW DRUGS AND BIOLOGICALS.

Section 1847A(c)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3a(c)(4)) is amended by striking "payable under this section for the drug or biological based on—" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: "payable under this section—

"(A) in the case of a drug or biological furnished prior to January 1, 2019, based on—

"(i) the wholesale acquisition cost; or

"(ii) the methodologies in effect under this part on November 1, 2003, to determine payment amounts for drugs or biologicals; and

"(B) in the case of a drug or biological furnished on or after January 1, 2019—

"(i) at an amount not to exceed 103 percent of the wholesale acquisition cost; or

"(ii) based on the methodologies in effect under this part on November 1, 2003, to determine payment amounts for drugs or biologicals."

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

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 3253), as amended, was passed.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, 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.

AMENDING TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, TO ADD FLAGSTAFF AND YUMA TO THE LIST OF LOCATIONS IN WHICH COURT SHALL BE HELD IN THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1569, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1569) to amend title 28, United States Code, to add Flagstaff and Yuma to the list of locations in which court shall be held in the judicial district for the State of Arizona.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1569) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DHS FIELD ENGAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 47, H.R. 504.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 504) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH FUSION CENTERS.

Section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subsection (i) the following:

“(j) **FUSION CENTER INFORMATION SHARING STRATEGY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall develop or update a strategy for Department engagement with fusion centers. Such strategy shall be developed and updated in consultation with the heads of intelligence components of the Department, the Chief Privacy Officer, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, officials of fusion centers, officers designated as Homeland Security Advisors, and the heads of other relevant agencies, as appropriate. Such strategy shall include the following:

“(1) Specific goals and objectives for sharing information and engaging with fusion centers—

“(A) through the direct deployment of personnel from intelligence components of the Department;

“(B) through the use of Department unclassified and classified information sharing systems, including the Homeland Security Information Network and the Homeland Secure Data Network, or any successor systems; and

“(C) through any additional means.

“(2) The performance metrics to be used to measure success in achieving the goals and objectives referred to in paragraph (1).

“(3) A 5-year plan for continued engagement with fusion centers.”.

SEC. 3. OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS FIELD PERSONNEL SUPPORT TO FUSION CENTERS.

(a) **PERFORMANCE METRICS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis shall—

(1) consider the effectiveness of existing processes to identify and prepare field personnel for deployment to support fusion centers and internal mechanisms to ensure oversight and accountability of such field personnel, including field personnel assigned to one center and field personnel assigned to multiple centers; and

(2) publish and disseminate performance metrics, taking into account, as appropriate, regional and threat diversity, for—

(A) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to an individual fusion center;

(B) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to multiple fusion centers; and

(C) Regional Directors of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to ensure accountability for monitoring all field personnel under the supervision of such Regional Directors.

(b) **TRAINING.**—In consultation with the Chief Information Officer, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis shall develop and implement a formalized training module for fusion center personnel regarding the classified Homeland Secure Data Network, or any successor system.

(c) **FUSION CENTER DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “fusion center” has the meaning given such term in section 210A(k) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as so redesignated by section 2.

SEC. 4. DHS COMPONENT USAGE OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, and in accordance with the functions and responsibilities assigned to the Under Secretary under title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.), shall—

(1) develop policies and metrics to ensure effective use by components of the Department of the unclassified Homeland Security Information Network (referred to in this section as “HSIN”), or any successor system; and

(2) develop policies for posting unclassified products on HSIN, or any successor system.

(b) **TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENTS.**—The Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Chief Intelligence Officer, shall assess and implement, as appropriate, technical enhancements to HSIN to improve usability, including search functionality, data analysis, and collaboration capabilities.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that describes the implementation of—

(1) the fusion center information sharing strategy required under section 210A(j) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such strategy;

(2) the deployment of field personnel to fusion centers (as such term is defined in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h)), in accordance with section 3, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such section; and

(3) policies that seek to ensure the effective use of the Homeland Security Information Network, in accordance with section 4, based on the metrics developed pursuant to such section.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be consid-

ered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 504), as amended, was passed.

FEDERAL AGENCY CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE ACT OF 2019

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 111, S. 1275.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1275) to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets, and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 1275

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 “Federal Agency Customer Experience Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the Federal Government serves the people of the United States and should seek to continually improve public services provided by the Federal Government based on customer feedback;

(2) the people of the United States deserve a Federal Government that provides efficient, effective, and high-quality services across multiple channels;

(3) many agencies, offices, programs, and Federal employees provide excellent service to individuals, however, many parts of the Federal Government still fall short on delivering the customer service experience that individuals have come to expect from the private sector;

(4) according to the 2018 American Customer Satisfaction Index, the Federal Government ranks among the bottom of all industries in the United States in customer satisfaction;

(5) providing quality services to individuals improves the confidence of the people of the United States in their [government] Government and helps agencies achieve greater impact and fulfill their missions; and

(6) improving service to individuals requires agencies to work across organizational boundaries, leverage technology, collect and share standardized data, and develop customer-centered mindsets and service strategies.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all agencies should strive to provide high-quality, courteous, effective, and efficient services to the people of the United

States and seek to measure, collect, report, and utilize metrics relating to the experience of individuals interacting with agencies to continually improve services to the people of the United States; and

(2) adequate Federal funding is needed to ensure agency staffing levels that can provide the public with appropriate customer service levels.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(3) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agency” means an agency or component of an agency that is required by the Director to collect voluntary feedback for purposes of section 6, based on an assessment of the components and programs of the agency with the highest impact on or number of interactions with individuals or entities.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) VOLUNTARY FEEDBACK.—The term “voluntary feedback” has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code, as added by section 4 of this Act.

SEC. 4. APPLICATION OF THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT TO COLLECTION OF VOLUNTARY FEEDBACK.

Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), is amended—

(1) in section 3502, as amended by section 202(a) of the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-435)*—

(A) in paragraph [(13)(D)] (22), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph [(14)] (23), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(1524) the term ‘voluntary feedback’ means any submission of information, opinion, or concern that is—

“(A) voluntarily made by a specific individual or other entity relating to a particular service of or transaction with an agency; and

“(B) specifically solicited by that agency.”; and

(2) in section 3518(c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) by an agency that is voluntary feedback.”.

SEC. 5. GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTARY FEEDBACK.

Each agency that solicits voluntary feedback shall ensure that—

(1) responses to the solicitation of voluntary feedback remain anonymous and shall not be traced to specific individuals or entities;

(2) individuals and entities who decline to participate in the solicitation of voluntary feedback shall not be treated differently by the agency for purposes of providing services or information;

(3) the solicitation does not include more than 10 questions;

(4) the voluntary nature of the solicitation is clear;

(5) the proposed solicitation of voluntary feedback will contribute to improved customer service;

(6) solicitations of voluntary feedback are limited to 1 solicitation per interaction with an individual or entity;

(7) to the extent practicable, the solicitation of voluntary feedback is made at the point of service with an individual or entity;

(8) instruments for collecting voluntary feedback are accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

(9) internal agency data governance policies remain in effect with respect to the collection of voluntary feedback from individuals and entities.

SEC. 6. CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE DATA COLLECTION.

(a) COLLECTION OF RESPONSES.—The head of each covered agency (or a designee), assisted by and in coordination with the senior accountable official for customer service of the covered agency, shall collect voluntary feedback with respect to services of or transactions with the covered agency.

(b) CONTENT OF QUESTIONS.—

(1) STANDARDIZED QUESTIONS.—The Director, in coordination with the Administrator, shall develop a set of standardized questions for use by covered agencies in collecting voluntary feedback under this section that address—

(A) overall satisfaction of individuals or entities with the specific interaction or service received;

(B) the extent to which individuals or entities were able to accomplish their intended task or purpose;

(C) whether the individual or entity was treated with respect and professionalism;

(D) whether the individual or entity believes they were served in a timely manner; and

(E) any additional metrics as determined by the Director, in coordination with the Administrator.

(2) ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.—In addition to the questions developed under paragraph (1), the senior accountable official for customer service at a covered agency may develop questions relevant to the specific operations or programs of the covered agency.

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent practicable—

(1) each covered agency shall collect voluntary feedback across all platforms or channels through which the covered agency interacts with individuals or other entities to deliver information or services; and

(2) voluntary feedback collected under this section shall be tied to specific transactions or interactions with customers of the covered agency.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, each covered agency shall publish on the website of the covered agency and submit to the Director, in a manner determined by the Director, a report on the voluntary feedback required to be collected under this section that includes—

(i) the detailed results, including a summary of how individuals and entities responded to each question;

(ii) the total number of survey responses; and

(iii) the response rate for each survey administered.

(B) CENTRALIZED WEBSITE.—The Director shall—

(i) include and maintain on a publicly available website links to the information provided on the websites of covered agencies under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) for purposes of clause (i), establish a website or make use of an existing website, such as the website required under section 1122 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) AGGREGATED REPORT.—Each covered agency shall publish, on a regular basis, an aggregated report on the solicitation of vol-

untary feedback sent to individuals or entities, which shall include—

(A) the intended purpose of each solicitation of voluntary feedback conducted by the covered agency;

(B) the appropriate point of contact within each covered agency for each solicitation of voluntary feedback conducted;

(C) the questions or survey instrument submitted to members of the public as part of the solicitation of voluntary information; and

(D) a description of how the covered agency uses the voluntary feedback received by the covered agency to improve the customer service of the covered agency.

SEC. 7. CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months after the date on which all covered agencies have submitted the first annual reports to the Director required under section 6(d)(1), and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 10 years after such date, the Comptroller General of the United States shall make publicly available and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report assessing the data collected and reported by the covered agencies.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a summary of the information required to be published by covered agencies under section 6(d); and

(2) a description of how each covered agency will use the voluntary feedback received by the covered agency to improve service delivery.

SEC. 8. RESTRICTION ON USE OF INFORMATION.

Any information collected pursuant to this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, may not be used in any appraisal of job performance of a Federal employee under chapter 43 of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments 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 committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1275), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 1275

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 “Federal Agency Customer Experience Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Federal Government serves the people of the United States and should seek to continually improve public services provided by the Federal Government based on customer feedback;

(2) the people of the United States deserve a Federal Government that provides efficient, effective, and high-quality services across multiple channels;

(3) many agencies, offices, programs, and Federal employees provide excellent service to individuals, however, many parts of the Federal Government still fall short on delivering the customer service experience that individuals have come to expect from the private sector;

(4) according to the 2018 American Customer Satisfaction Index, the Federal Government ranks among the bottom of all industries in the United States in customer satisfaction;

(5) providing quality services to individuals improves the confidence of the people of the United States in their Government and helps agencies achieve greater impact and fulfill their missions; and

(6) improving service to individuals requires agencies to work across organizational boundaries, leverage technology, collect and share standardized data, and develop customer-centered mindsets and service strategies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all agencies should strive to provide high-quality, courteous, effective, and efficient services to the people of the United States and seek to measure, collect, report, and utilize metrics relating to the experience of individuals interacting with agencies to continually improve services to the people of the United States; and

(2) adequate Federal funding is needed to ensure agency staffing levels that can provide the public with appropriate customer service levels.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(3) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agency” means an agency or component of an agency that is required by the Director to collect voluntary feedback for purposes of section 6, based on an assessment of the components and programs of the agency with the highest impact on or number of interactions with individuals or entities.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) VOLUNTARY FEEDBACK.—The term “voluntary feedback” has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code, as added by section 4 of this Act.

SEC. 4. APPLICATION OF THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT TO COLLECTION OF VOLUNTARY FEEDBACK.

Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), is amended—

(1) in section 3502, as amended by section 202(a) of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-435)—

(A) in paragraph (22), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (23), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(24) the term ‘voluntary feedback’ means any submission of information, opinion, or concern that is—

“(A) voluntarily made by a specific individual or other entity relating to a particular service of or transaction with an agency; and

“(B) specifically solicited by that agency.”; and

(2) in section 3518(c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) by an agency that is voluntary feedback.”.

SEC. 5. GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTARY FEEDBACK.

Each agency that solicits voluntary feedback shall ensure that—

(1) responses to the solicitation of voluntary feedback remain anonymous and shall not be traced to specific individuals or entities;

(2) individuals and entities who decline to participate in the solicitation of voluntary feedback shall not be treated differently by the agency for purposes of providing services or information;

(3) the solicitation does not include more than 10 questions;

(4) the voluntary nature of the solicitation is clear;

(5) the proposed solicitation of voluntary feedback will contribute to improved customer service;

(6) solicitations of voluntary feedback are limited to 1 solicitation per interaction with an individual or entity;

(7) to the extent practicable, the solicitation of voluntary feedback is made at the point of service with an individual or entity;

(8) instruments for collecting voluntary feedback are accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

(9) internal agency data governance policies remain in effect with respect to the collection of voluntary feedback from individuals and entities.

SEC. 6. CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE DATA COLLECTION.

(a) COLLECTION OF RESPONSES.—The head of each covered agency (or a designee), assisted by and in coordination with the senior accountable official for customer service of the covered agency, shall collect voluntary feedback with respect to services of or transactions with the covered agency.

(b) CONTENT OF QUESTIONS.—

(1) STANDARDIZED QUESTIONS.—The Director, in coordination with the Administrator, shall develop a set of standardized questions for use by covered agencies in collecting voluntary feedback under this section that address—

(A) overall satisfaction of individuals or entities with the specific interaction or service received;

(B) the extent to which individuals or entities were able to accomplish their intended task or purpose;

(C) whether the individual or entity was treated with respect and professionalism;

(D) whether the individual or entity believes they were served in a timely manner; and

(E) any additional metrics as determined by the Director, in coordination with the Administrator.

(2) ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.—In addition to the questions developed under paragraph (1), the senior accountable official for customer service at a covered agency may develop questions relevant to the specific operations or programs of the covered agency.

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent practicable—

(1) each covered agency shall collect voluntary feedback across all platforms or channels through which the covered agency interacts with individuals or other entities to deliver information or services; and

(2) voluntary feedback collected under this section shall be tied to specific transactions or interactions with customers of the covered agency.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, each covered agency shall publish on the website of the covered agency and submit to the Director, in a manner determined by the Director, a report on the voluntary feedback required to be collected under this section that includes—

(i) the detailed results, including a summary of how individuals and entities responded to each question;

(ii) the total number of survey responses; and

(iii) the response rate for each survey administered.

(B) CENTRALIZED WEBSITE.—The Director shall—

(i) include and maintain on a publicly available website links to the information provided on the websites of covered agencies under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) for purposes of clause (i), establish a website or make use of an existing website, such as the website required under section 1122 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) AGGREGATED REPORT.—Each covered agency shall publish, on a regular basis, an aggregated report on the solicitation of voluntary feedback sent to individuals or entities, which shall include—

(A) the intended purpose of each solicitation of voluntary feedback conducted by the covered agency;

(B) the appropriate point of contact within each covered agency for each solicitation of voluntary feedback conducted;

(C) the questions or survey instrument submitted to members of the public as part of the solicitation of voluntary information; and

(D) a description of how the covered agency uses the voluntary feedback received by the covered agency to improve the customer service of the covered agency.

SEC. 7. CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months after the date on which all covered agencies have submitted the first annual reports to the Director required under section 6(d)(1), and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 10 years after such date, the Comptroller General of the United States shall make publicly available and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report assessing the data collected and reported by the covered agencies.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a summary of the information required to be published by covered agencies under section 6(d); and

(2) a description of how each covered agency will use the voluntary feedback received by the covered agency to improve service delivery.

SEC. 8. RESTRICTION ON USE OF INFORMATION.

Any information collected pursuant to this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, may not be used in any appraisal of job performance of a Federal employee under chapter 43 of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. 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.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO REDUCE THE CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENT FOR THE EDITH NOURSE ROGERS STEM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2196.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2196) to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2196) was passed.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. 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.

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS DAY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 286, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 286) designating July 26, 2019, as "United States Intelligence Professionals Day".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 286) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m. on Monday, July 29; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to consideration of the veto messages to accompany S.J. Res 36, 37, and 38, with the time until 5:30 p.m. divided as under the previous order; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session of the Senate ripen following disposition of the joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019, at 3 P.M.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:05 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 29, 2019, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GLEN D. VANHERCK

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ARTHUR J. LOGAN

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

GEORGE HABIB ABI-NADER, OF VIRGINIA
 HECTOR JAVIER ACEVEDO RIOS, OF MARYLAND
 BRANDON C. ATTCHISON, OF VIRGINIA
 TODD ALIX ALPHONSE, OF VIRGINIA
 CORI A. ALSTON, OF ILLINOIS
 ALI FERDUN ARIN, OF FLORIDA
 BETHANY SARAH ARNOLD-BIK, OF VIRGINIA
 SAMUEL I. ARONSON, OF NEW JERSEY
 ANEESHA S. ASKEW, OF VIRGINIA
 EMILY ROSE AUGUSTINE, OF VIRGINIA
 PAUL STEPHEN BAILEY, JR., OF VIRGINIA
 TIMOTHY TRAVER BAKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ROBERT L. BALDRIDGE, OF VIRGINIA
 MICHAEL STEPHEN BASHI, OF VIRGINIA
 JOSHUA P. BARTLETT, OF OHIO
 ASHLEY U. BENTZEN, OF VIRGINIA
 ALEXANDRA L. B. BERNARDO, OF VIRGINIA
 ERIC J. BERNAU, OF CALIFORNIA
 NATHALIA RICARTE GILLOT BORDEN, OF VIRGINIA
 WILLIAM T. BRENT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SOMALI BUN, OF VIRGINIA
 JOHN MATTHEWS BYRNE III, OF VIRGINIA
 KELLY ALPINE BYRNES, OF VIRGINIA

CHRISTOPHER DESHAWN CARR, OF TEXAS
 BARRIE JAMIESON CHANG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SRAVANTHI CHERUKURI, OF VIRGINIA
 PATRICK D. CHO, OF OHIO
 CHIH HAO CHOU, OF VIRGINIA
 WILLIAM P. CLARK, OF TEXAS
 ERICA LYNN CLAYTON, OF VIRGINIA
 ROSS A. CONROY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ROBERT R. COOPER, OF UTAH
 JASON E. CURRIER, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 KATHARINE MARIE DANIELS, OF VIRGINIA
 RAYMOND JOHN DI NOVO, JR., OF VIRGINIA
 WILLIAM L. F. DING-EVERSON, OF CALIFORNIA
 EMILY KATELIN DIONNE, OF VIRGINIA
 LORRAINE DIOS, OF VIRGINIA
 CHRISTOPHER ROBERT DITTMAYER, OF VIRGINIA
 STEPHEN C. DOVE, OF TEXAS
 HILARY G. DOWNEY, OF VIRGINIA
 SUZANNE K. EBERT, OF NEBRASKA
 FRANK VINCENT EMERSON, OF VIRGINIA
 JENNA NICOLE EWALD, OF VIRGINIA
 WILLIAM ERIK EZEKIEL, OF VIRGINIA
 STEPHEN LINDER FERNANDEZ, OF VIRGINIA
 LAURA A. FIELDS, OF CALIFORNIA
 JOHN MATTHEW PINE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JOSEPH C. FORD, OF VIRGINIA
 KRISTEAN O'BRYAN FORREST, OF VIRGINIA
 TANJA CATHERINE FRANCIS, OF VIRGINIA
 ANTHONY FRANZESE, OF VIRGINIA
 MATTHEW JOSEPH GALLERY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 PETER JOHN GALLO, OF VIRGINIA
 ADAM R. GANNAWAY, OF TEXAS
 MARY C. GILLMORE, OF VIRGINIA
 ALFREDO L. GONZALEZ, JR., OF FLORIDA
 RACHEL LOUISE GRADY, OF VIRGINIA
 RICHARD JUN HA, OF VIRGINIA
 PATRICK M. HAKLEY, OF VIRGINIA
 ADAM R. HALL, OF ILLINOIS
 PRESTON DARYL HALL, OF VIRGINIA
 TRAVIS C. HALL, OF WASHINGTON
 PENNY G. HAMBLOMATIS, OF VIRGINIA
 PETER L. HANSEN, OF WASHINGTON
 STEPHANIE LYNN HARRISON, OF VIRGINIA
 MEREDITH LINDSAY HART, OF VIRGINIA
 MORIA LYNN HENNING, OF VIRGINIA
 GRANT A. HOLYOAK, OF VIRGINIA
 WESLEY A. HOLZER, OF CALIFORNIA
 PHILIP AUSTIN HOVIS, OF VIRGINIA
 ELIZABETH A. HUML, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ANDREA J. HUSTON, OF VIRGINIA
 AUSTIN KYLE INGHAM, OF VIRGINIA
 JUSTIN V. IVEY, OF FLORIDA
 DANIEL F. JACKSON, OF FLORIDA
 FAULETTE K. JANUS, OF ILLINOIS
 ISAAC B. JENKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ALEX R. JOHNSON, OF MARYLAND
 ALEXANDRA K. JOHNSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 BRIANA NICHOLE JOHNSON, OF RHODE ISLAND
 CHANCE LOGAN JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA
 KATHRYN L. JONES, OF OKLAHOMA
 ERIC MICHAEL JOYNER, OF VIRGINIA
 SAMANTHA ANNE KACOS, OF VIRGINIA
 MANDY JOY KAMEN, OF VIRGINIA
 ARI KATZ, OF WASHINGTON
 RICHARD DEAN KIM, OF VIRGINIA
 YONGKYU KIM, OF CALIFORNIA
 JAMES GORDON KING, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 PATRICK RYAN KLOTZBACH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JAMES O. KNABLE, OF MARYLAND
 KEVIN A. KRAVITZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ELIASZ KRAWCZUK, OF NEW YORK
 JAMES PETER KROMHOUT, OF VIRGINIA
 BETH A. KUCH, OF HAWAII
 MATTHEW ALLEN LANDMEIER, OF VIRGINIA
 SCOTT J. LAVON, OF MARYLAND
 DAVID EDWARD LEARY, OF VIRGINIA
 SCOTTIE LEONARD III, OF VIRGINIA
 MATTHEW BRETT LEVEY, OF VIRGINIA
 EARNESTINE LING, OF VIRGINIA
 JULIAN H. LIPSCOMB III, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 JAKUB D. LISKOWIAK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SARA E. LOCKE, OF CALIFORNIA
 EMILY BRIDGETTE LOPEZ, OF MARYLAND
 MARK A. LOWRY, OF VIRGINIA
 RUBY KEHAULANI MACKO, OF TEXAS
 SEAN R. MADDEN, OF VIRGINIA
 LAUREN KAYE MALAFO, OF VIRGINIA
 SHEREE N. MARAMBIO, OF CALIFORNIA
 TAYLOR R. MAUCK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MICHAEL LORIN MAYNE, OF FLORIDA
 CAROLYN ANN MCCOLLOW, OF VIRGINIA
 EDWARD DOUGLAS MCINTOSH, OF VIRGINIA
 ROBERT T. MCNEARY, OF VIRGINIA
 KENNETH DONALD MCNEIL III, OF VIRGINIA
 JENNIFER VAINIE MILLER, OF VIRGINIA
 TASHA ROYEL MINOR, OF VIRGINIA
 RYAN M. MULLEN, OF MARYLAND
 DEREK CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, OF VIRGINIA
 KRISTEN A. NAGLE, OF VIRGINIA
 STEVEN ANTHONY NIGGL, OF VIRGINIA
 SHAWN K. O'DONNELL, OF CALIFORNIA
 DRU B. OLSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DENIZ Z. OZDEMIR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MICHAEL A. PANDO, OF VIRGINIA
 TASHA ESTELLE PARASKEVOPOULOS, OF VIRGINIA
 LARA MARISA PARK, OF NEW MEXICO
 VALERIE J. PARRY, OF WASHINGTON
 KEVIN BRUCE PASZINSKI, OF VIRGINIA
 RYAN EMILIE PENDER, OF VIRGINIA
 RYAN ALLEN PEREIRA, OF VIRGINIA
 AUGUSTA B. PHEBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 CEDAR I. PHILLIPS, OF MINNESOTA
 JENNIFER A. PIERSON, OF TEXAS

CHRISTIAN DALE PIMENTEL, OF VIRGINIA
 JAMES WILLIAM PINER, OF VIRGINIA
 AJLA PORCA, OF VIRGINIA
 LEAH WOODARD PURNELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 FELICE MCKELVEY RAITERI, OF VIRGINIA
 FRANCISCO JAVIER REYES, OF VIRGINIA
 JOHN E. RIES, OF VIRGINIA
 JAMES JOHN RIZZI, OF VIRGINIA
 JAMES E. ROBBINS, OF TEXAS
 HADLEY MARGUERITE ROBERTS, OF MARYLAND
 PATRICK TERRENCE ROHAN, OF VIRGINIA
 ZACHARY A. ROSNER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 AARON DAVID ROTH, OF VIRGINIA
 RENAE REYES SAN NICOLAS, OF VIRGINIA
 WHITNEY MARIE SAUER, OF VIRGINIA
 BARBARA ANN SCHECKEL, OF VIRGINIA
 MAX MICHAEL SCHINDLER, OF VIRGINIA
 ETHAN LEWIS SCHULMAN, OF MARYLAND
 ANNE N. SHERMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MIKAELA MARIE SHUPP, OF VIRGINIA
 PENELOPE ANNE SIMMONS, OF VIRGINIA
 WHITNEY LORRAINE SKIPPINGS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MARIA SKIRK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MIKOLAJ M. SLOMKA, OF VIRGINIA
 JULIAN STRASSMANN SMISEK, OF TEXAS
 CHARLES EDWARD SMITH II, OF FLORIDA
 DANIEL ARTHUR SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
 EMILIA B. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON
 LAWRENCE ANDREW SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
 MCRAE JOSEPH SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
 PATRICK D. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON
 MARY ELIZABETH SNEDEKER, OF VIRGINIA
 JAMES ANDREW SOMERS III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JESSICA LYNN SOUDER, OF VIRGINIA
 ERICA LAUREN STEWART, OF VIRGINIA
 GREGORY B. STONEBERG, OF VIRGINIA
 JENNIFER SHARI STRINGER, OF VIRGINIA
 HILARY SEEGER SZOT, OF VIRGINIA
 KELLY L. TEK, OF VIRGINIA
 BART J. THILTGEN, JR., OF CALIFORNIA
 ALISA M. THOMAS, OF OHIO
 GREGORY MCDONALD TYREE, OF VIRGINIA
 NJOKI PATRICE URIBE, OF VIRGINIA
 ANTHONY JOHN VALDEZ, OF VIRGINIA
 CRISPIN M. VANBUER, OF CALIFORNIA
 STEPHANIE C. VANN, OF VIRGINIA
 THEODORE J. VASTINE, OF VIRGINIA
 CHRISTINE SHORTLEY VILLANI, OF MARYLAND
 SARA DIANE VOTIPKA, OF VIRGINIA
 THOMAS ARTHUR WALKER, OF VIRGINIA
 MARGARET H. WALROD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DANIEL J. WALSH, OF FLORIDA
 BRANDON KENNETH WARREN, OF VIRGINIA
 ELAINE ROBBINS WARREN, OF VIRGINIA
 KRISTIN WEBER, OF VIRGINIA
 AMANDA GUAY WELDON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ZACHARY CANNON WHITLEY, OF VIRGINIA
 KIP T. WHITTINGTON, OF TEXAS
 SHAINA MARIE WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA
 SAMUEL THOMAS WILLIAMSON, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 AMY SUE WISSELER, OF VIRGINIA
 ROBERT WILLIAM WOODALL, OF VIRGINIA
 ERICA MICHELLE PARKER YACUS, OF FLORIDA
 GABRIELLE MARIE YORK, OF VIRGINIA
 JORDAN E. YOUNES, OF VIRGINIA
 ROXANA ISABELLE ZIAREK, OF VIRGINIA
 RYAN KELLY ZIMMERMAN, OF VIRGINIA
 ALEXIS LYN ZINTAK, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SEN-

IOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:
 CYNTHIA K. DUERR, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

JESSICA ABENSTEIN, OF FLORIDA
 SETH FLINCHBAUGH, OF OKLAHOMA
 TIMOTHY LAMPING, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 TYLER SCHEUPELE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 JAE SONG, OF TEXAS
 DAVID WALDRON, OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

KENDRA MICHELLE ARBAIZA-SUNDAL, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
 SARAH H. ASHBY, OF TEXAS
 CLAIRE J. ASHCRAFT, OF CALIFORNIA
 JOHN T. AVRETT II, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 SAPTARSHI BASU, OF TEXAS
 HEATHER J. BEGGS, OF ALASKA
 CHELSEA R. BERGENSEN, OF WASHINGTON
 CHRISTOPHER J. BODINGTON, OF VIRGINIA
 MATTHEW CARL BOWLBY, OF MINNESOTA
 TIMOTHY S. BROWN, OF MICHIGAN
 ANDRES K. CALDERON, OF TEXAS
 HOOJU CHOI, OF VIRGINIA
 CYBELE M. COCHRAN, OF VIRGINIA
 TASHINA ETTER COOPER, OF TEXAS
 DAVID P. COUGHRAN, JR., OF WASHINGTON
 IAIN A. CRAWFORD, OF CALIFORNIA
 GREGORY DAVID, OF FLORIDA
 CLAIRE Y. DESJARDINS, OF OHIO
 TAYLOR B. DEWEY, OF VIRGINIA
 MICHAEL H. DING, OF CALIFORNIA
 JEFFREY D. DIRKS, OF WASHINGTON
 ERIC S. ELLIOTT, OF NEW MEXICO
 PAUL R. ESTRADA, OF CALIFORNIA
 JOHN T. FOJUT, OF VIRGINIA
 LAWRENCE POSTER, OF FLORIDA
 PAUL S. GARR, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 MATTHEW J. GERDIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 LUIS L. GONZALEZ III, OF TEXAS
 PAUL J. GORMLEY, OF COLORADO
 SHIRLEY C. GREEN, OF TEXAS
 LAWRENCE J. GROMAN, OF VIRGINIA
 STEPHANIE KARLA GUERRA-SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
 BLYTHE M. GUIGNON, OF VIRGINIA
 TODD D. HEFFNER, OF VIRGINIA
 BENJAMIN J. HILLBERRY, OF VIRGINIA
 ILDIKO A. HRUBOS, OF HAWAII
 SONG Y. HUANG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JASON INSLIE, OF FLORIDA
 MELY A. JACOBSON, OF TEXAS
 MATTHEW M. JENNINGS, OF TEXAS
 JAE-MAN JEON, OF VIRGINIA
 DAVID H. JOHNSON, OF MICHIGAN
 LAUREN A. JOHNSON, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 SYDNEY PASQUIER-VICTORIA KELLY, OF WASHINGTON
 MAUREN G. KUMAR, OF TEXAS
 NEAL B. LARKINS, OF OREGON
 JOHN D. LATHERS II, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 BRIGID A. LAUGHLIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 HYE R. LEE, OF VIRGINIA
 AVA GIANA LEONE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 AUSTIN J. LEWIS, OF TEXAS
 ANN R. MANGOLD, OF PENNSYLVANIA

JENNIFER D. MARSH, OF FLORIDA
 JESSICA E. MARTIN, OF CALIFORNIA
 JAY R. MCCANN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 JAMES W. MCPHERSON IV, OF MARYLAND
 OMAR W. MEDINA, OF FLORIDA
 SEAN C. MURRAY, OF VIRGINIA
 TAMORA JOHNSON NOBILSKI, OF NEW YORK
 MATTHEW J. PAGETT, OF FLORIDA
 ROBERT E. POULSON-HOUSER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 NICHOLAS A. PSYHOS, OF VIRGINIA
 SAMIDHA REDKAR, OF OHIO
 ALEXANDER M. ROSENBLATT, OF MAINE
 LUIS G. SALAS, OF CALIFORNIA
 MIKEL L. SAVIDES, OF CALIFORNIA
 COLIN M. SEALS, OF FLORIDA
 JULIECLAIRE B. SHEPPARD, OF FLORIDA
 DAVID RAYMOND SKORSKI, OF FLORIDA
 JESSICA KELLY SLATTERY, OF NEBRASKA
 WILLIAM A. SLOAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SHANNON A. SMALL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JULIA MARIE SMART, OF VIRGINIA
 CHRISTOPHER J. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON
 MELANIE J. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON
 BRIAN E. SMYSER, OF NEW YORK
 THOMAS A. SNYDER, OF MINNESOTA
 WILLIAM E. STANGE, OF WASHINGTON
 CATHERINE L. SWANSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 LUKE K. TATEOKA, OF HAWAII
 SARAH E. TATUM, OF TENNESSEE
 ESTHER E. TETRUSHVILY, OF NEW JERSEY
 NATHANIEL G. TISHMAN, OF FLORIDA
 AMANDA S. TOLLEFSON, OF WASHINGTON
 RYAN H. USTICK, OF FLORIDA
 JERRY J. WANG, OF TEXAS
 TRAVIS J. WARNER, OF KANSAS
 RICHARD A. WESCH, OF TEXAS
 BRYANT H. WHITFIELD, OF INDIANA
 MATTHEW L. WILLIGER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
 KELLY M. WINCK, OF TENNESSEE
 MATTHEW D. WINSLOW, OF WYOMING
 JOSEPH B. WITTERS, OF VIRGINIA
 GORDON T. WOOD, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:
 JACQUELINE LEANN WARD, OF FLORIDA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 25, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JOSEPH V. CUFFARI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 152 AND 601:

To be general

GEN. MARK A. MILLEY

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM J.
NOONAN'S RETIREMENT

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. AMODEI. Madam Speaker, on July 31st, an era will end. After a long and successful career in government and the gaming industry—the last 18 years of which he spent at Boyd Gaming—William J. Noonan will retire. Bill's long career—truly an American success story—has midwestern roots. A graduate of Missouri State before receiving his master's in public administration from the University Kansas, Bill spent years managing cities all across this country. From Springfield, Missouri, to small towns in Florida, and eventually to Las Vegas in the 1990s, Bill's positive energy and inspiring leadership guided cities large and small through some of the toughest and most exciting of economic times.

When Bill first landed in Las Vegas in 1990, it was a city of just under a million people. Gaming was not widely legalized throughout the country, but was about to be . . . and Bill sensed a boom coming. He worked with city leaders to prepare for what was to come and would soon take his skills into the private sector for a number of companies who needed to understand the key relationship that exists between the gaming industry and the communities in which they operate. Bill was exactly the right person for the job.

Since those humble beginnings of his youth, Bill has actually run a casino, dined with US presidents, overseen corporate philanthropies that have donated millions to communities and worthwhile causes, successfully recruited a professional football team to Las Vegas, and helped a city gather itself together after the horrific events of October 1 in his role as chairman of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce.

For his leadership to community and country, Bill's been recognized numerous times—by his industry as the Gaming Professional of the Year; by his alma mater as an outstanding alumnus; and by his state by serving on a number of prestigious boards. But if you know Bill, you know he really only cares about the appreciation of those with whom he works and the recognition of his lifelong love Sylvia and their beautiful family . . . with whom he now gets to spend a lot more time.

I wish my friend well. I thank him for his contributions, and I congratulate him on his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE CITY OF ORAN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Oran in Scott

County, MO on its 150th anniversary. The city of Oran, founded on July 16, 1869, was originally dubbed "St. Cloud" for the French town outside of Paris. The city was known to locals as "The Land of the Watermelon."

After some debate in the community and the opening of a new post office in 1882, the city officially decided on the name Oran. Captain Ward L. Smith, a retired sailor, selected the name Oran in honor of the second most important city in Algeria, which he had visited during his time in the Navy. Oran is a North African word for lion and is historically associated with the Berber legend of "the Mountain of Lions."

Traditions are a staple in Oran. Over the years, the city has hosted fall festivals, town celebrations, and picnics. Its most famous tradition is the Fourth of July picnic, which dates to 1908. Since its inception, the picnic has been celebrated annually except for a three-year break during World War II. The picnic features a multitude of activities for families and a firework show. The celebrations attract people from all walks of life each year.

Today, the city maintains its familiar farm town character, even with a growing population of over 1,300 residents. It is a charming community with a noteworthy history in the agricultural development of the Bootheel and of family values. It is my great pleasure to celebrate Oran today on the occasion of its sesquicentennial birthday before the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIDLAND
SHERIFF GARY PAINTER

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Midland Sheriff Gary Painter, who was taken from us far too soon. Sheriff Gary Painter served Midland County with unconditional dedication for 34 years, and will be remembered by West Texans as a patriot of integrity and valor.

Sheriff Painter is a native Texan, growing up a farming community north of Lubbock where his family planted cotton and grains. After graduating from Plainview High School, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and dutifully served his nation through two tours of duty in Vietnam. His unrelenting dedication to our country earned him the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Ribbon with 6 devices, the Presidential Unit Commendation, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. He was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps with the rank of Sergeant on August 31, 1970.

Upon his return to Texas, he began his career in law enforcement, working for the Texas Department of Public Safety, Culberson County's Sheriff's Office, Presidio County's Sheriff's

Office, and the Midland Police Department before joining the Midland County Sheriff's Office in 1982.

Throughout his nine terms as Sheriff of Midland County, Gary dedicated himself to improving the office. He utilized the latest technologies, helping law enforcement work faster, smarter, and better. He also notably organized the first multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force in West Texas, keeping our community safer.

Sheriff Painter has left behind a huge pair of boots to fill. His legacy as a courageous, selfless, public servant will be remembered and honored by all those he inspired over his decades of service. Gary has left behind his wife, Patsy, five children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. God Bless his family and loved ones during this difficult time of loss. Suzanne and I will continue to pray as our community mourns.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF JUDY SCHNEIDER ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIRE-
MENT

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished and enormously popular constituent, Judy Schneider, who is well-known and beloved to the Members of this body. After nearly 43 years of devoted service to the American people, she is retiring her post as a Specialist on the Congress at the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Ms. Schneider began her career as a Congressional Staffer on the Temporary Select Committee to Study the Senate Committee System, the House Commission on Administrative Review, and the Senate Ethics Committee. Shortly thereafter she joined CRS as a Congressional Procedures Analyst and then became Specialist on the Congress. An admired and respected senior-level expert on the history, procedures, rules and culture of Congress, she employed her sharp intellect, prodigious curiosity and seasoned experience to the benefit of us all.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Schneider dedicated herself to the always urgent mission of congressional reform. She contributed to the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress in 1991, navigated the creation of the Department of Homeland Security after 9/11, and provided logistical support to Members and staff during five separate changes of party control in the House.

Never content keeping her vast procedural knowledge to herself, Ms. Schneider developed new orientation programs for incoming Senate Chairs, co-authored the Congressional Deskbook guide to Congress, and advised Members through hearings, markups, and committee assignment bids. She also co-founded a program to train thousands of congressional staffers and conducted professional

• 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.

trainings at the Brookings Institution. Her mentorship and scholarship have informed a generation of congressional employees and I feel reassured knowing that her institutional influence will continue long past the date of her retirement.

Unsurprisingly given the scope and depth of her achievements, Ms. Schneider has been decorated with many recognitions. She received a Meritorious Service Award and a Congressional Staff Leadership Award from the Stennis Center, as well as several awards from the Congressional Management Foundation and the Women in Government Relations (WGR) society. WGR even created a fellowship in her name to honor her service to “the thousands of women she has mentored, developed, and trained.”

After spending her career shaping Congress into a more effective, procedurally efficient place, Ms. Schneider now heads to Sea Isle City, New Jersey, for an extremely well-deserved retirement. I thank her for her career and service, and I have been immensely proud to call her my friend and constituent and will always consider her so. She has our best wishes.

HONORING CHANDLER PARK CONSERVANCY'S MARSHLAND PROJECT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chandler Park Conservancy as they break ground on a marshland conservation project in Detroit, Michigan.

Michigan is well known for its beautiful lakes and rivers that are home to diverse wildlife. But these areas are at risk of being lost as more areas become developed, especially in cities like Detroit. Chandler Park Conservancy is taking steps to preserve those areas and make spaces habitable for wild plants and animals to flourish again.

Beyond restoring natural beauty to the area, the project will provide the added benefit of diverting storm water from the city's already overburdened sewer system; it will create sustainable rain gardens and house an outdoor classroom where students can learn more about conserving and protecting our natural resources.

Please join me in tribute to the Chandler Park Conservancy in honor of its marshland conservation project.

HONORING COLONEL TODD W. LYONS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Todd W. Lyons for his thirty years of honorable service to our country and congratulate him on his retirement from the United States Marine Corps.

Col. Lyons was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps

in 1989. He graduated with honors from the Field Artillery Basic and Advanced Courses, and in 1994 he returned to serve as a Fire Support Instructor. After his subsequent assignment, he was selected to attend the Naval Postgraduate School where he earned a master's degree in National Security Affairs. Col. Lyons was selected for duty as a Marine Attaché in 2000, studying Arabic at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington, DC. Col. Lyons then served as an Attaché in Qatar, Israel, and Oman, where he led strategic planning teams to further national security objectives.

After his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 2005, Col. Lyons was selected to attend the Israeli National Defense College where he graduated with honors. In 2008, Col. Lyons deployed to Iraq as an Engagements Officer where he was a key figure in coordinating allies to secure the transfer of Anbar Province back to Iraqi control. In 2014 he returned to the Defense Attaché Service and served as the Chief of Operations until 2016, where he directed operations in crisis regions throughout the world.

Col. Lyons is currently the Senior Marine Representative at the Naval Postgraduate School, where he teaches Innovation Leadership and is widely respected as a professor and mentor of our next generation of military leaders. In his role as the Associate Dean of Research, Col. Lyons employs an interdisciplinary approach by connecting academic researchers with military practitioners.

Col. Lyons' personal decorations emphasize his efforts and unwavering dedication to serving our country. They include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Navy and Marine Corps Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold stars. Col. Lyons has received two Department of State Superior Honor Awards for his esteemed work as an Attaché, one for his work in Israel during the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 and another for his work in Oman between 2011 and 2014.

Col. Lyons' distinguished career of military service is nothing short of an inspiration, and his legacy of teaching and leadership will undoubtedly live on through our future generations of service members. He embodies dedication and service, and the central coast of California has benefitted greatly from his presence. I wholeheartedly wish Col. Lyons, his wife Kristiana and their three daughters, Grace, Eleanor and Jordan the best during his retirement. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in thanking Colonel Todd W. Lyons for his honorable service to our nation and congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR. KELLY SCOTT SEGARS, SR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Kelly Scott Segars, Sr., who passed away on Tuesday, July 23rd at the age of 89.

Dr. Segars, a resident of Iuka, Mississippi, served his community, state, and nation as a

physician, banker, pilot, farmer, entrepreneur and humanitarian. He was born on March 11, 1930, in Red Bay, Alabama to Dock and Ora S. Segars. He was an honor graduate of Red Bay High School and the Auburn University School of Pharmacy. Upon completion of his studies at Auburn, he married his high school sweetheart, Martha Ann Thompson. He joined the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant and was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant while serving in Korea from 1953 to 1955. He received many recognitions for his service including the American Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Following his military service, he pursued his interest in medicine and graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in 1959. In 1982, he established The Segars Clinic, and it quickly became known as the State's most innovative and technically advanced medical facilities in North Mississippi. In 1962, Dr. Segars chartered the First National Bank of Iuka. Today, First American National Bank operates nine branches in six counties.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of almost 67 years, Martha Thompson Segars; his sons—Scott Segars and Mark Segars of Iuka, MS; and his daughter Leigh Ann Segars of Pensacola, Florida as well as five grandchildren.

Dr. Segars' life was one of service, love for his family, and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

HONORING AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE 1ST CLASS GORDON KINNEY ON HIS 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Gordon Kinney of Chicago, Illinois, who is celebrating his 105th birthday today. Mr. Kinney is a veteran who bravely served our nation in the United States Navy during World War II.

Mr. Kinney was deployed to Japan during his three-year tour of duty in World War II, where he served as a Navy Aircraft Crew Chief aboard a PBM Mariner aircraft nicknamed *ABLE*. PBM Mariner flight crews played a vital role throughout the war, acting as patrol bombers as well as performing high priority search and rescue missions for downed pilots and aircrews. The crew complement consisted of three pilots, two navigators, and four crew. Mr. Kinney was drawn to aviation at a young age and knew he wanted to fly from the time he was only five years old.

Mr. Kinney and each of his three brothers answered the call of duty and fought to defend our country during World War II. He and his brothers were inspired by their family's long tradition of service to our country, dating back to their father and grandfather.

For Mr. Kinney's heroism and extraordinary achievement during his military service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as the Air Medal. These decorations exemplify Mr. Kinney's dedication to the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment, as well as his country.

Mr. Kinney's sacrifice and dedication to our country are an inspiration to us all. He is a man who defended our country at a time of tremendous need. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his service, bravery, and dedication to his family and community.

ASTORIA REGATTA

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Astoria Regatta, the City of Astoria, and Clatsop County on the 125th celebration of the Regatta. This is a joyous milestone for one of the oldest festivals west of the Rocky Mountains and an important moment to pause and reflect on the significance of the Regatta to our region.

Since the Astoria Regatta's founding in 1894, it has celebrated our connection to the mighty Columbia River and our heritage as a seafaring and fishing community. The first festival, which evolved out of the custom of boat racing on the river, included a parade of 22 decorated yachts and the presence of the *U.S. Monitor Monterey*. Early Regattas featured a four-and-a-half mile swim across the river, and the popular Salmon Derby. Since then, the Regatta has grown with the additions of the Regatta Court, the Grand Land Parade, the Seaman's Memorial, the rose planting ceremony, and many other special community traditions.

Today, the Astoria Regatta embodies the best aspects of our region. Through the Royal Court, the Regatta helps develop the leadership skills of young women. The Regatta is also an opportunity to praise the dedication of community leaders who serve as Regatta Dignitaries: the Admiral, Admiral's Aide, and the Grand Marshals. And through the Seaman's Memorial, the Regatta allows us to remember and memorialize those we have lost on the river and the ocean.

Although World War I and World War II interrupted the celebration of the Astoria Regatta, the community always found a way to restore it. In fact, many of our long-standing community institutions have ties to the Regatta: in 1933, the newly-founded Astoria Yacht Club helped bring the Regatta back after the First World War, and the Clatsop County Fair began in 1905 as an agricultural exhibit of the Regatta. Past Regattas marked the Lewis and Clark Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1955, the opening of the Astoria-Megler Bridge in 1966, the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976, and the Bicentennial of Astoria in 2011.

We can only imagine what E.J. Smith, editor of *The Daily Morning Astorian*, and Frank M. Gunn, secretary of the Astoria Football Club, would think about the 125th anniversary of the tradition they started in 1894. Like us, surely they would be proud of the community that Astoria has become, the growth and vitality of this region, and the continuation of this grand tradition.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 748

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman NEAL for his leadership managing this bill on the floor. As Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, his advocacy is a powerful message to the House to pass the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act. I also want to thank Ranking Member BRADY and Rep. MIKE KELLY for their bipartisan efforts in support of this bill, defying the polarized politics that far too often dominates the health care debate.

Madam Speaker, this bill today comes with the support of a more than 650 health care stakeholders who, over the last ten years, have joined together to repeal the 40 percent excise tax on higher premium health plans scheduled to go into effect in 2022.

This tax was a late add on to the Affordable Care Act and has been rattling around in the federal tax code ever since, never having actually collected a penny of revenue, but nonetheless casting an statutory shadow over 180 million Americans' health plans—we know in real life from HR administrators and employee representatives it has added pressure to shift coverage into higher deductible health plans. As the Commonwealth Fund recently reported, the numbers of Americans who are underinsured as the result of high deductibles has grown by over 50 percent since 2005. Kaiser Family Foundation just reported that 31 percent of employer health plans will get hit by the tax in 2022, and that number will grow sharply soon after. Passage of this bill will stop that trend from worsening, lift the shadow that overhangs employer-sponsored plans, and give millions of teachers, factory workers, small businesses, firefighters and the like, relief.

As the bill's lead sponsor, I want to foot stomp the fact that repeal of the tax does not touch the architecture of the ACA's patient protections. Repeal is completely severable from the other 440 sections of the law and leaves intact essential health benefits, and the elimination of preexisting conditions exclusions and lifetime caps to name a few. Given that those patient protections have been in full operation for the last ten years, while this "zombie tax" has been in a coma during that time, it is abundantly clear that the tax is disconnected from the rest of the law. Lastly, I want to underscore the CBO determination that passage will not result in any increase in the number of uninsured.

There is one other concern that observers have raised, namely the impact on the national debt. Again, JCT has given a mixed report. The good news is that repeal this year 2019 will result in no budget impact in 2020 and 2021. In the following two years they estimate a loss of 21 billion in tax revenue. In the out years their projections grow exponentially, based on a theory of "wage effect" cause by the "thinning" of health plans' value and a corresponding increase in wages. To say that the "wage effect" theory is debatable is an understatement, and employee groups such as Wage Works, the AFL-CIO, police and firefighter groups ferociously deny the validity of the "wage effect" based on their real life experience at the collective bargaining table.

The only remaining question a reasonable observer might ask is why has repeal taken so long? Given the initial 5-year delay in the tax's effective date in 2010, based on Speaker Nancy Pelosi's opposition and the two subsequent delays until 2022, it is true that the warning flags were up on this tax early and Congress should have acted sooner. In the Congresses that followed 2010 ACA enactment, there was ample opportunity to get this done. In the 114th Congress an identical surgical repeal bill had 188 bipartisan cosponsors. In the 115th Congress a surgical bill had 304 bipartisan cosponsors. Despite that broad based support, neither Speaker John Boehner nor Paul Ryan ever called those bills up for a vote. I know because I was the lead Democratic sponsor on every one of those measures.

Madam Speaker, with 370 House cosponsors, I am hopeful an overwhelming tally tonight will send a laser-like message to the Senate to adopt this bill as soon as possible, as is.

RECOGNIZING LILA MILLER AND ELIZABETH SAUNDERS FOR THEIR SUCCESS IN THE 2019 USROWING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Lila Miller and Elizabeth Saunders for their success in the 2019 USRowing National Championships. Through their perseverance and determination, Lila and Elizabeth have distinguished themselves as athletes and representatives of their community and Michigan's First District.

Although Lila is blind, she has learned to row over the past several years as a member of the Lake Leelanau Rowing Club. Together, she and Elizabeth have developed a passion for the sport—and rowing together at the USRowing National Championships, they brought home gold medals for the club. With rowers varying in age from 12 to the mid-80's, the Lake Leelanau Rowing Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to promoting access to rowing for Michiganders of all ages and experience levels. They host national sculling clinics, rowing camps, and year-round programs for local youth and adults, including for those with visual impairments. These programs are held on the grounds and lakefront at Fountain Point Resort, Michigan's oldest waterfront resort and a National Historic Site. Fountain Point and Lake Leelanau offer the ideal location for cultivating a love of rowing, offering 17 miles of pristine water for rowers like Lila and Elizabeth to practice the sport.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Lila Miller and Elizabeth Saunders for their success in the 2019 USRowing National Championships. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such exceptional individuals. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Elizabeth and Lila all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING CHP OFFICER ROGER
GORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of California Highway Patrol Officer Roger Davis Gore. On April 5, 1970, Officer Gore was one of four CHP officers tragically gunned down in a police shooting near Interstate 5. In remembrance of his sacrifice, a section of State Highway 99 in Merced is being dedicated to him and his colleague, Officer Walter Frago.

Born on February 17, 1947 to Max Gore and Bertha M. Staley, Officer Gore was the second born in his family of three in the Merced County town of Snelling, California. He graduated from Merced High School and later attended Merced College before becoming a CHP officer in 1967. Together, he and his wife Valerie were the parents of one daughter, Elyce.

On April 5, 1970, Officers Frago and Gore were the first to respond to a suspect who had been reported brandishing a weapon. Upon pulling over a vehicle with two men, a gun fight ensued leaving Officers Frago and Gore, as well as Officers George Aley and James Pence dead. This tragedy is one still remembered by the law enforcement community and Merced County residents as Officers Frago and Gore were both born and raised in Merced.

In honor of Officer Gore's commitment to duty and sacrifice, the section of Highway 99 between Mission Avenue and Campus Parkway is being dedicated as the CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway. This location is fitting, as Campus Parkway will eventually connect Highway 99 to the University of California, Merced campus. This section of highway being dedicated will continue to ensure our local community and future generations remember and honor the sacrifice of these two young officers, each of whom lost their lives at 23-years-old on that tragic day.

The CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway symbolizes the sacrifice these two gentlemen gave for all citizens to help continue building a better future for our community and country. Furthermore, it will help bridge Merced County's past to its present and remind community members of the dedication to duty exhibited by these two fine officers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the duty and sacrifice of CHP Officer Roger Gore. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor him as the CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway is dedicated. I wish his family, the California Highway Patrol, and the Merced law enforcement community the best as this section of Highway 99 is dedicated in his honor.

IN HONOR OF THE BICENTENNIAL
OF TAPPAN CHAIRS

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tappan Chairs of Sandwich as

they celebrate their bicentennial. First opened in 1819 by Abraham Tappan, Tappan Chairs has become a pillar in the Sandwich community.

This business stayed in the Tappan family for over a hundred years through the work of the founder's son, Daniel, and grandsons, Walter and Winthrop. Although it has changed owners since those early days, the style and durability of Tappan Chairs has remained, and they are still produced on the same vintage equipment that they were crafted on so many generations ago.

The success and longevity of Tappan Chairs is a testament to the enduring work ethic of its owners, who for generation after generation, stepped in to take its mantle. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I congratulate everyone at Tappan Chairs on an exciting anniversary. I hope that they are able to celebrate this impressive milestone and wish them the best of luck in their next 200 years of business! I thank them for all that they do to make the Granite State such a wonderful place to work, live, and play.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALLOWING
BODY CAMERAS IN JOINT TASK
FORCES ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, Representative DONALD S. BEYER, Jr. and I introduce the Allowing Body Cameras in Joint Task Forces Act of 2019. This bill would prohibit the federal government from refusing to work with local police departments that require their officers to wear body cameras. Our bill would apply to all federal agencies.

Under current policy, though it appears to be unwritten, the Department of Justice has been refusing to participate in task forces with local police departments that have body camera requirements.

The Justice Department has determined that 47 percent of police departments in the country have body cameras. It is beyond reason to prevent these numerous police agencies from participating in federal task forces if their officers wear body cameras. The federal government should be encouraging the use of officer body cameras instead of discouraging their use. This bill only applies to uniformed officers, which means federal officials could refuse to participate in task forces if body cameras are used during undercover operations.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS FOR
INDIVIDUALS IN CUSTOMS AND
BORDER PROTECTION CUSTODY
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3239) to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to perform an initial health screening on detainees, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3239, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act.

Having visited federal immigration detention facilities along the U.S.-Mexico border, I have seen firsthand the alarming conditions imposed on many immigrant refugees by the Trump administration. There is no question that we have a humanitarian crisis on our border. It is also clear that the immigrant detention system operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) needs significant reform and passing H.R. 3239 is the first step in the process of improving this distressing situation.

H.R. 3239 would finally establish a basic standard of care for immigrants in CBP custody, including clearly defining the requirements for sanitation, nutrition, and hygiene in CBP detention facilities. The legislation would also ensure health screenings by medical professionals for every immigrant in CBP custody. I would note that this legislation was written with the input of CBP Officers who both understand the scope of the humanitarian crisis and the changes that need to be made in order to ensure that immigrants in CBP custody get the necessary medical care they may require.

With regards to the Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 3239, I am unable to support it because Congress still requires answers from CBP officials on why Members of Congress and immigrants were targeted in a derogatory Facebook group run by current and former CBP employees. However, I would like to strongly state that I will always stand in support of our federal employees who follow their oath of office. Many employees at CBP put their safety at risk on a daily basis, conduct themselves with integrity, and they should be supported.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3239.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. J.
FRANK FILGO

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. J. Frank Filgo, on the occasion of his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer for the Alabama Trucking Association after more than 24 years of service. Mr. Filgo made a tremendous impact on the Alabama Trucking Association, leading it with honor and character while advocating for the trucking industry's needs in Alabama's political arena.

Mr. Filgo graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Teacher Education and is a graduate of the National Institute of Organization Management at the University of Delaware. He received his Certified Association Executive designation in 1988 and served as Chairman of the Alabama Society of Association Executives. Throughout his career, he has been active in several state pro-business coalitions, including serving on the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama (BCA).

Prior to becoming President of the Alabama Trucking Association in 1995, Mr. Filgo served as President of the Alabama Alliance of Business and Industry where he provided political research benefitting business groups. He is also a former chairman of the Region II Trucking Association Executive Council and currently serves as its secretary.

In recognition of his tireless work on behalf of Alabama's trucking industry, as well as his leadership in the state's business community, Mr. Filgo received the Alabama Trucking Association's 2015 H. Chester Webb Award for Distinguished Services and the 2017 Jo Bonner Spirit of Leadership Award as presented by the BCA.

Mr. Filgo is known in both Alabama and Washington for his impressive ability to build coalitions to improve the business climate for all Alabamians, especially those in the trucking industry. His ability to forge relationships, coordination of staff, and leadership style have brought him immense success and significant positive impact on Alabama's trucking community. With extraordinary and sincere gratitude, I thank Mr. Filgo for his dedicated service and outstanding contributions to Alabama and the Alabama trucking community. I wish Mr. Filgo all the best as he retires from the Alabama Trucking Association, and may God bless him, his wife Jackie, his daughter Marianne, his son Jack, and his entire family in the next chapter of his life.

IN HONOR OF ROY BATES

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Roy Bates, of Winchester, Kentucky. Mr. Bates, a true patriot, passed away on July 4, 2019.

Roy Bates was quite eager to serve his country and attempted unsuccessfully to enlist in the Navy and in the Army when he was not yet of legal age. In 1950, when he was 18 years old, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and went to Parris Island for training. He was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Division. He was soon sent to Korea to join his fellow Marines.

On September 1, 1951, just 3 days before his 19th birthday, Mr. Bates was on patrol when his group was ambushed. They were taking heavy fire. Crawling on his belly trying to reach cover, he heard the dreaded click of a landmine beneath him. His left leg was blown away and his right leg sustained numerous wounds. Severely wounded, he was carried off the field by two fellow Marines. One of those who carried him off was killed in action a few days later. Many years later Mr. Bates was reunited with Royce Henry, the other Marine who saved him.

Mr. Bates spent 7 years in and out of hospitals and had 32 surgeries. He received a Purple Heart as well as numerous other medals. He married his wife Betty and they had 4 children. Mr. Bates eventually returned home to Winchester where he always cherished a deep love for his country and for the Marine Corps. He was a well respected member of his community who exemplified good character and a positive attitude all of his life.

Mr. Bates and his fellow veterans are true heroes. He willingly served to protect and defend the freedoms that we enjoy today. He faced life with an unwavering faith in God and love for this country. I am humbled to honor the life of Mr. Roy Bates before the United States Congress.

DYNAMIC ARGENTINA AND CHILE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this past weekend of the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Landing on the Moon, I was grateful to join with Chairman ALBIO SIREs of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee of the Western Hemisphere to participate in a bipartisan delegation to Argentina and Chile. Additional members were TED DEUTCH, TOM GRAVES, TED YOHO, and NORMA TORRES.

The initial purpose of the CODEL was to attend the Remembrance Ceremony commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo provided a heartfelt tribute for the 85 victims viciously murdered by cowardly perpetrators traced to the terrorists of Hezbollah financed by the Iranian regime. AMIA President Ariel Eichbaum welcomed diplomats from across South America.

We also visited the memorial park at the site of the Israeli Embassy which was bombed in 1992 murdering 29 victims who were largely Argentinian citizens who were tragically simply walking in the neighborhood.

Due to the respect of Chairman SIREs, the delegation was welcomed to the office of President Mauricio Macri. It was impressive to meet with such a public servant who so clearly loves and appreciates the people he serves of Argentina.

U.S. Ambassador Eduard Prado and his wife Maria hosted our visit to the historic Ambassador's residence where we met the courageous Ambassador from Venezuela Elisa Trotta Gamus. Ambassador Gamus has been appointed by the legitimate government of Venezuela led by Interim-President Juan Guaido opposed to the dictatorship of the disgraced Nicolas Madura who has plundered the formerly wealthy nation of Venezuela stealing from its impoverished citizens.

In Santiago, Chile, a very professional country team briefing was provided at the Embassy confirming Chile as a very dynamic democracy with extraordinary economic success as a model of free market benefits of reducing poverty. The professionalism of the military of Chile was presented as they are partnered with the Texas National Guard. Charge d'Affaires Baxter Hunt has an enthusiastic staff.

The U.S. Chile Interparliamentary Friendship Group of the Chamber of Deputies led by Chamber President Ivan Flores Garcia hosted a meeting with Chilean parliamentarians of different parties who all were clear in their appreciation and respect for America.

U.S. educated, Fulbright Scholar, President Sebastian Pinera welcomed the delegation to the Presidential Palace. More traveled than the delegation, he has visited all 50 U.S.

states. In his current term and his prior service as President, it is clear his free market success has built a modern, vibrant partner of the United States inspiring democracy in all of South America.

The talented citizens of Argentina and Chile can be proud of their achievements with Argentina having a land mass equal to the U.S., east of Mississippi River and narrow Chile at 8,000 miles—three time the length of California.

IN MEMORY OF DR. EDITH IRBY JONES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the distinguished life and legacy of Dr. Edith Irby Jones, who passed away on July 15, 2019.

Dr. Jones was the epitome of a trailblazer. In 1948, she became the first African American student admitted to the University of Arkansas Medical School—six years before the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision. In 1959, Dr. Jones again made history as the first African American woman resident at Baylor College of Medicine. Twenty-six years later, Dr. Jones became the first female president of the National Medical Association, an organization that has represented black physicians since 1895.

For half a century, Dr. Jones committed herself to serving marginalized communities in Houston's Greater Third Ward area. She often went beyond the typical duties of a physician by making house calls and picking up patients in her van in order to expand services to the underserved in the community. Along with her work in Houston, Dr. Jones treated patients, trained physicians, and founded a clinic in Haiti. Service and dedication for the less fortunate were integral components of Dr. Jones's remarkable career, and we are truly grateful for the impact she has had on generations of aspiring African American medical professionals.

Outside of her medical practice, Dr. Jones notably worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as part of the "Freedom Four," a group that traveled throughout the segregated South to encourage people to join the civil rights movement.

Dr. Jones is survived by her daughter, Myra; sons, Gary and Keith; and many wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Dr. Jones and her extraordinary contributions to medicine, social justice, and the Greater Houston community. We thank her and will miss her dearly.

HONORING CHP OFFICER WALTER FRAGO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of California Highway Patrol Officer Walter Carroll Frago. On

April 5, 1970, Officer Frago was one of four CHP officers tragically gunned down in a police shooting near Interstate 5. In remembrance of his sacrifice, a section of State Highway 99 in Merced is being dedicated to him and his colleague, Officer Roger Gore.

Born on December 22, 1946 to Augustine L. Frago and Rose M. Piovano, Officer Frago was the third of seven children in the family. He graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School and later Merced College. In 1965, he married Nicola B. Dunaway, together they had two daughters Amorette and Gabriell. In 1968, he began his career as a CHP officer.

On April 5, 1970, Officers Frago and Gore were the first to respond to a suspect who had been reported brandishing a weapon. Upon pulling over a vehicle with two men, a gun fight ensued leaving Officers Frago and Gore, as well as Officers George Aley and James Pence dead. This tragedy is one still remembered by the law enforcement community and Merced County residents as Officers Frago and Gore were both born and raised in Merced.

In honor of Officer Frago's commitment to duty and sacrifice, the section of Highway 99 between Mission Avenue and Campus Parkway is being dedicated as the CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway. This location is fitting, as Campus Parkway will eventually connect Highway 99 to the University of California, Merced campus. This section of highway being dedicated will continue to ensure our local community and future generations remember and honor the sacrifice of these two young officers, each of whom lost their lives at 23-years-old on that tragic day.

The CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway symbolizes the sacrifice these two gentlemen gave for all citizens to help continue building a better future for our community and country. Furthermore, it will help bridge Merced County's past to its present and remind community members of the dedication to duty exhibited by these two fine officers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the duty and sacrifice of CHP Officer Walter Frago. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor him as the CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway is dedicated. I wish his family, the California Highway Patrol, and the Merced law enforcement community the best as this section of Highway 99 is dedicated in his honor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIKESHARE TRANSIT ACT OF 2019

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, America is in the middle of a micromobility revolution, with bikeshare and scooters changing the way that people get around. First introduced in the United States in 2010, more than 100 communities now have bikeshare systems, supporting a network of more than 100,000 bikes. Since bikeshare's launch in the United States, riders have taken more than 100 million trips, with the number of trips and systems increasing each year.

My community recently celebrated the third anniversary of its BIKETOWN bikeshare

launch. Since then, Portlanders and visitors have taken nearly 900,000 trips, covering more than one million miles and removing untold numbers of automobiles from city streets. The system's success has already led to its expansion, giving more communities access to efficient, carbon-free transportation.

The increased commercial investment around bikeshare stations and networks is driving economic development across the country. Systems are opening in communities of all sizes from Los Angeles and Cleveland to Topeka and Birmingham. While some existing bikeshare programs received federal dollars to develop their systems, the lack of an established funding source has proved an impediment to many other projects. Since the term "bikeshare" is not defined in U.S. code or described by law as a form of transit, existing bikeshare systems and departments of transportation are forced to operate in a gray area, creating challenges for funding, maintaining, and administering these programs.

Today, I am reintroducing the Bikeshare Transit Act of 2019, legislation that will eliminate this gray area by defining bikeshare in statute and making bikeshare systems eligible to receive funding to enhance related public transportation service or transit facilities. The bill allows federal funding to be used for acquiring or replacing bikeshare-related equipment and constructing bikeshare facilities. Bikeshare systems will also be listed as eligible projects under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program.

The Bikeshare Transit Act will remove significant barriers facing new and existing bikeshare projects applying for federal funding while underscoring that bikeshare programs drive economic development and add value to America's transportation system.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRAVO COMPANY, NEW BATTALION'S SERVICE IN BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work, dedication, and outstanding service of Bravo Company, NEW Battalion in helping veterans in Brown County, Wisconsin.

In 2017, the citizens of Brown County were asked to create a new program to help veterans in Northeast Wisconsin transition from active duty to civilian life. As a result, a group of hardworking veterans and citizens formed Bravo Company, NEW Battalion, a non-profit veteran-to-veteran sponsorship organization. The veteran sponsorship program increases veterans' awareness of the educational, state, and federal benefits, as well as community resources that are available to them upon returning home from active duty.

Earlier this year, the first set of veteran-to-veteran sponsors completed training, receiving education on the many veteran service organizations and resources available to veterans and their families in Northeast Wisconsin. After training, each sponsor is partnered with a recently discharged veteran to support the

veteran through the transition phase and connect him or her to support services in the area, like the County Veteran Service Office.

Since its creation, Bravo Company, NEW Battalion has already helped veterans in Northeast Wisconsin navigate and return to civilian life. I am confident the organization will continue to help many more returning veterans as its ranks grow.

The commitment to excellence, dedication and service that Elaina Koltz, Scott Katzka, Ken Corry, Dick Marbes, and Patrick Fauldes have shown is integral to the success of veterans transitioning to civilian life in Brown County. These founding board members of Bravo Company, NEW Battalion insure that veterans receive a warm welcome from active duty or deployment back home to Brown County. They truly demonstrate selfless service and are an asset to this community.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding Bravo Company, NEW Battalion, its board, and its veteran volunteer sponsors for their service to discharged veterans in Northeast Wisconsin. I am proud to have such an organization in my district, one which consists of many veterans whose service continues even after they remove their uniform.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank you as well as Chairman MALONEY, Ranking Member GRAVES, and Ranking Member GIBBS, for your leadership.

I rise in support of H.R. 3409, and applaud the inclusion of Title VIII, the Coast Guard Academy Improvement Act.

I have been honored to work closely with Chairman DEFAZIO and Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, as well as with Congressman JOE COURTNEY, to address the troubling issues that have arisen at the Coast Guard Academy.

As Chairman of the Coast Guard Subcommittee from 2007 through 2010, I convened a series of hearings to push the Academy to ensure that its cadet corps reflects the diversity of the nation it is being prepared to serve. And progress has been made.

However, the recent Equity Scorecard evaluation has found profoundly troubling trends at the Academy.

Specifically, the review found that, "Black/African/American cadets have been consistently less likely to graduate than the all-cadet average" and, "Of particular urgency is Black/African/American cadets' disproportionately high share of disciplinary sanctions."

Then, in December 2018, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security issued a report finding that a Lieutenant Commander on the faculty of the Academy, "was retaliated against on the basis of her complaints, in violation of the Military Whistleblower Protection Act."

Chairman THOMPSON, Congressman COURTNEY, and I are continuing to conduct oversight

of the Academy's response to the Equity Scorecard findings, and we are investigating numerous disparities and shortcomings in how the Academy handles allegations of harassment and bullying.

However, one thing is already abundantly clear: Business as usual is simply not an option.

For that reason, in June, I was honored to join Chairman THOMPSON in introducing H.R. 3488, the Coast Guard Academy Improvement Act.

I appreciate the thoughtful revisions that have been made to that bill's text through close collaboration with the Transportation Committee and I thank Chairman DEFAZIO for including those revisions in the Coast Guard Authorization Act before us.

These provisions will require urgently needed assessments of and improvements in the Academy's outreach processes and institutional structures to foster expanded diversity.

I urge all Members to vote in favor of the Coast Guard Authorization Act.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 39 OF NORTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of American Legion Post 39 of North Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Shortly after the end of World War I, 15 veterans living around the village of North Saint Paul came together to discuss a new national organization called the American Legion that was dedicated to serving veterans and their families. These veterans decided to seek a charter for a local post, which was issued on August 1, 1919, beginning a century of service and support for Minnesota veterans, their families and the greater good of the surrounding North Saint Paul community.

The newly formed American Legion Post 39 quickly found its focus serving the community by leading a Safety First Committee which worked with businesses to improve safety around crossing guards and signals at rail and street crossings. To honor and support their fellow veterans, another part of their mission was to support the Minneapolis and Hastings Veterans Homes, the Veterans Rest Camp and the Fort Snelling Rifle Squad. The post also made investments in America's future by sponsoring Boy's State, Legionville school patrol camp and providing college scholarships for local students, as well as their American Legion Baseball team the 39ers.

Spouses, daughters and granddaughters of Post 39 have always been integral to the success of its work. Post 39 Auxiliary was formally chartered in May 1926 to work alongside the post and expand its community contributions, including support of Girls' State and Webster Elementary School. The auxiliary has also assisted important entities like the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans and the Veterans Administration Community Resource and Referral Center. The auxiliary has played a vital role in the success of the Post.

As a life member of the Post 39 Auxiliary, I know firsthand the many contributions that the post makes to our veterans, our state and our nation.

The sons and grandsons of veterans who comprise Squadron 39—Sons of the American Legion have supported among many programs the North St Paul Food Shelf, American Legion Baseball, the Silver Lake Splash and the Shop, Ship and Share program.

Just last year, Post 39 was a key supporter of the American Legion National Convention, held in Minneapolis—which marked the start of the 100th anniversary of the national organization. Through its support of the work and advocacy of the American Legion, Department of Minnesota as well as the National Organization, the North Saint Paul Post 39 epitomizes the Four Pillars of the American Legion—Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

Madam Speaker, as veterans, families and members of the area communities gather on August 3, 2019 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of American Legion Post 39 of North Saint Paul, Minnesota please join me in honoring this major milestone and the generations of leaders and members of this veterans service organization.

RECOGNIZING MARTIN PURYEAR

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the achievements of Martin Puryear.

Martin Puryear, the eldest of seven children, was born in Washington, DC. He was raised in Southwest Washington and attended the then-segregated William Syphax Elementary School. His lifelong interest in the natural world and how things are constructed inspired a young Puryear to visit local institutions such as the National Zoo, the Museum of Science and Technology and the Museum of Natural History. The city's art museums left a profound impact on Puryear, and today some of those same museums—the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Hirshhorn Museum—hold some of his most significant works in their permanent collections.

After graduating from the Catholic University of America, Puryear spent two years in Sierra Leone teaching English, French and biology as a member of the Peace Corps. He continued his studies at the Swedish Royal Academy of Art in Stockholm and received his MFA from Yale University.

Puryear's approach to object-making has been influenced by the indigenous techniques and materials of cultures he has encountered on his travels. His sculptures are painstakingly constructed from materials such as wood, metal and stone. Their elegant, abstract forms reflect his deep interest in history.

Puryear received a MacArthur Foundation award in 1989 and the National Medal of Arts from President Obama in 2011. This year, he is representing the United States at the 58th Venice Biennale. The Museum of Modern Art

in New York and the Art Institute of Chicago have organized major retrospectives, and his work has been acquired by museums across the United States, Europe and Asia.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Martin Puryear for his outstanding accomplishments as an artist and honored DC native.

COMMEMORATING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF LECHASE CONSTRUCTION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of LeChase Construction.

Established in 1944 by Raymond F. LeChase, LeChase Construction is a full-service construction management and general construction firm. With humble beginnings, LeChase Construction began as a small family operation to fill the local demand for construction work during World War II. Today LeChase employs more than seven hundred and fifty employees and ranks among the nation's top contractors.

LeChase prides itself of offering the capabilities of a large firm while maintaining the personalized service of a small firm. For the last twenty years, LeChase's Southern Tier operations, headquartered in Corning, New York, has provided people from the region with the expertise and high quality of service that LeChase is known for. From Chautauqua to Elmira and down to central Pennsylvania, LeChase has earned the respect of repeat clients, who account for nearly ninety percent of the region's work. Vice President Fred Thompson credits that earned respect to their track record of delivering successful projects and the hardworking, down-to-earth people of the Southern Tier.

Seventy-five years of serving the community is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate LeChase on this impressive milestone and look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of LeChase Construction.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CHARLES SCOTT NEELY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the distinguished career of Charles Scott Neely, Principal of Cypress Bay High School in my hometown of Weston, Florida.

Scott Neely is one of Broward County's longest-serving high school principals. He was the founding principal and served at the helm of Cypress Bay, Florida's largest high school, since it opened in 2002 and shepherded thousands of students—including my three children—through some of the most formidable years of their lives.

Principal Neely built Cypress Bay into one of the highest ranked public high schools in the nation. They have an almost perfect graduation rate, 72 percent of students take at least one Advance Placement course, and 90 percent pursue studies in college or vocational schools. Beyond academics, Principal Neely and Cypress Bay High have instilled a sense of service in their students. In recent years, the student body has raised over \$250,000 for UNICEF. Scott has also fostered a learning environment that values diversity and inspires all students to succeed. Indeed, Cypress Bay reflects the beautiful diversity of my home state, with a student body that is more than 50 percent Hispanic.

Scott's devotion to his students is a reminder that we must continue to invest in our nation's teachers, children, and schools. And Principal Neely has always understood that in order to invest in our students, we need to invest in our teachers. He is truly an educator's educator. Educators will tell you that teaching is demanding. Educators work long hours and are not only expected to impart a certain knowledge, but they also instill a love of learning in their students.

I know firsthand the excellence Scott has brought to Cypress Bay each day. His patience, wisdom, and encouragement have helped shape tomorrow's leaders, ensuring America remains competitive, innovative, and prosperous.

Scott is a champion for our children and an inspiration to all those who know him, myself included. I join my fellow Cypress Bay Lighting parents, students, and alumni in wishing the "Big Kahuna" well on his retirement and in thanking him for the thoughtful and committed work he has done to enrich and safeguard our children.

IN HONOR OF THE KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD, 206TH ENGINEER BATTALION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 206th Engineer Battalion of the Kentucky National Guard, which is deploying to assist the U.S. Central Command Area of Operations.

While I am sorry I cannot be with them at today's deployment ceremony, I express my profound gratitude to them for embarking on this mission to serve the United States of America. We are blessed to live in the greatest country in the world. America is truly the land of the free and the home of the brave—all because of men and women like them who have answered the call to serve. The entire Commonwealth of Kentucky is proud of them and behind them during this mission. I join everyone in Owensboro in praying for their safety, and I look forward to welcoming them home.

HONORING THE FALLEN COMBAT VETERANS FROM LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of six brave men from Lake Havasu City, Arizona who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great country. The men and women of the United States Military place themselves in danger every day to afford us the freedoms and the way of life that we are privileged to have.

SSG. Carl Hammar, SPC. Dylan Thomas, SPC. Anthony Sausto, SPC. Patrick Tinnell, SP4 Scott Broadston and SPC. Carey "Gary" Harmon dedicated their lives to these shared ideals that make the United States a country unlike any other. While no words or actions can ever repay the valor and service of these men, we commemorate their sacrifice with my legislation, H.R. 3314, which will rename the U.S. Post Office located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the "Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building." I thank the House Oversight and Reform Committee for passing this bill today through committee and I wholeheartedly urge this body to adopt this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to include in the RECORD the biographies of the six men that the Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building honors. May we never forget the legacy that they leave behind for future generations of Americans.

Carl Erik Hammar (Aug. 3, 1986–Jul. 14, 2012). Carl Hammar lived in Lake Havasu City shortly before his deployment overseas. Born in Sweden, he moved to the United States and Lake Havasu City during his senior year of high school, where SSG. Hammar married fellow student Abby Mahan in 2005. Together they had one child, and Hammar enlisted in the Army after spending a year at Mohave Community College. Hammar actually served twice in Iraq and in Afghanistan. On July 14, 2012 he died due to wounds caused by small-arms fire in Musa Kheyl district, Khost province, Afghanistan.

Dylan Thomas Reid (Sept. 3, 1986–Oct. 16, 2010) Spc. Dylan Thomas Reid, 24, of Lamar, Mo., died Oct. 16 in Amarah, Iraq, where he was stationed. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo. Dylan was born Sept. 3, 1986, in Ironwood, Mich., to Terry and Kelli Reid. He graduated in 2005 from Desert Technology High School, Lake Havasu City. Dylan has proudly served his country since joining the United State Army in 2008. Dylan is survived by his daughter, Avery Lynn Reid, born Sept. 14, 2010, in Minnesota.

Anthony Jonathan Sausto (Dec. 10, 1985–May 10, 2007) Anthony Sausto lived in Lake Havasu City for a few months before his deployment to Iraq, but friends and family say that those few months were the happiest they had ever seen him. Born in New Jersey, Spc. Sausto moved to Lake Havasu City after getting his GED and planned to go into legal services with the military after he returned from his tour of duty. Anthony originally grew

up in Atlantic City, New Jersey but moved to Lake Havasu City in 2005 with his mother and his sister. He was the youngest of three siblings. Family members said he was a shy, quiet youth, once in an army uniform, Anthony found his calling, and his manhood. He came out of his shell, he was so outgoing and confident. He also had a compassionate side. He was a great man with a big heart who saw the brighter side of life. Anthony died on May 10, 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq from wounds suffered by small firearms.

Patrick Allan Tinnell (Mar. 25, 1981–Apr. 19, 2006) Spc. Tinnell was the first from Lake Havasu City to be killed in action during the Global War on Terror, and the impact it had on the community has been obvious and lasting. Tinnell's passing inspired the town to come together in support of his family to build the Tinnell Memorial Sports Park, a skate park with a feature designed like Tinnell's helmet. Opened in 2013, the park is now the largest multi-use skate park in Arizona and the Southwest. Patrick was originally born in Los Angeles, California but grew up in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. In between High School and Military he worked for pest control and was a BMX rider for MBK bikes. Tinnell also volunteered at Teen Break, trying to set good examples for students. As a side note, Patrick was the first person to jump over an elephant during Teen Break in 1999. He joined the army in September 2005. On April 19, 2006, Patrick Tinnell died in Siniyah, Iraq.

Scott Ray Broadston (Nov. 3, 1950–Jun. 5, 1970) Scott was born in San Diego, California and later moved to Arizona. He spent most of his life in Tucson as well as Lake Havasu City. He graduated from Tucson High School in 1968. Broadston enlisted in the Army and entered via "Regular Military." He began his tour on October 7, 1969. In Vietnam, Broadston flew a UH-1H helicopter and on the day he died, he was tasked with supporting a combat assault along a highway about 10 miles west of the town of An Nonh. He died June 5, 1970. There is a memorial park in Lake Havasu City dedicated to him called the "Lake Havasu Memorial Gardens."

Carey "Gary" Dean Harmon (Jul. 26, 1948–Apr. 26, 1968) SPC Carey Dean Harmon became the first soldier from Lake Havasu City to be Killed in Action in Vietnam, as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds at the age of 19, on April 26, 1968. Harmon was attached to the 26th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed The Blue Spaders. He was in Vietnam for three months and his unit was in the Binh Duong province of South Vietnam at the time he was killed. It is possible that he fought against the TET Offensive. During his first month in Vietnam. Hatmon's then girlfriend, Mary Frazee-DeWees who now lives in Prescott, knew him as Gary Harmon. She said she wanted to marry Harmon, but at 16, her father did not approve.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF CPL. CHARLES S. LAWLER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to acknowledge the life and sacrifice of Army Corporal Charles S. Lawler, who

died in service to his country during the Korean War in November 1950. I ask that you join with me and the people of Michigan's First District in honoring the heroic sacrifices of our service men and women as his remains are returned to his home in Michigan after nearly 70 years.

In Korea, Charles served as a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was reported Missing in Action on November 2nd, after his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Unsan, North Korea. His remains could not be recovered following the attack, and he was not reported as a prisoner of war. On December 31, 1953, the U.S. Army declared him as deceased. On July 27, 2018, Cpl. Lawler's remains were turned over to the United States along with many of his fellow servicemen following the summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un. The remains were given to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, which works to identify fallen service members and return them to their families. On May 13, 2019, his remains were finally identified.

Cpl. Lawler's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for. Charles will arrive in Traverse City later today before finally being laid to rest on July 27th. His remains will be escorted by a full Honor Guard and rifle squad, as well as by Veterans from across the country.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Corporal Charles S. Lawler for making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country. On behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join with me in honoring an American hero as he returns home.

RECOGNIZING ROCK FALLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON
THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Rock Falls United Methodist Church as they honor August 6, 2019 as "Rock Falls United Methodist Church Day" in the city. On this occasion, I extend my immense gratitude to Reverend Dr. Solomon Sudhaker, the proud leader of this congregation.

Rock Falls United Methodist Church has grown tremendously since its origins in 1869 as the first church in the City of Rock Falls. Since then, it has become an integral part of the city of Rock Falls. In the last 150 years, the church has undergone many transformations—from sharing the wisdom of several different Pastors through the years, to rising from the ashes of a 1922 fire, to the addition of the Education Wing in 1961. The church has prospered and has always remained true to its core mission and values. Rock Falls United Methodist Church has gone above and beyond to enrich our community through their commitment to education, youth and faith.

Madam Speaker, I would once again like to congratulate Rock Falls United Methodist Church on their 150th anniversary. I am proud to know that organizations, such as Rock Falls United Methodist Church, continue to flourish and strengthen our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
YEAR OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 2
OF APPLETON, WISCONSIN'S
CHARTER

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Boy Scout Troop 2 of Appleton, Wisconsin as they celebrate the 100th year of the Troop's charter.

Troop 2 was chartered in 1919 and is the oldest continuous Boy Scout Troop in the Fox Valley. While four other troops were also chartered in 1919, only Troop 2 has continuously held meetings. The longest serving Scoutmaster, Harold Brown, kept the Troop active from 1925–1962 through the Great Depression, World War II, and the Korean War. Today the Troop boasts over 50 members.

Throughout the years, Troop 2 has remained committed to preparing young people to become leaders in their community. Over 120 Eagle Scouts hail from Troop 2. In addition, several Troop members have earned the Order of the Arrow, a Scout Achievement Award based on peer-recognition that places a scout in the top percentiles of Scouting.

Each year, Troop 2 dedicates countless hours to serving the community. Scouts volunteer at local nature reserves and YMCAs, and assist in trash and recycling efforts for community events such as Oktoberfest and Mile of Music. The scouts also go camping once a month and participate in weekly Troop meetings.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise in recognition of the 100-year celebration of Boy Scout Troop 2's charter. I would like to thank current Scoutmaster Ron Litsheim for his dedication to the success of Troop 2, and to the scouts for their service to and leadership throughout the community.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
GEOGRAPHERS RESOLUTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following resolution on climate change, adopted by the American Association of Geographers on April 3, 2019.

[From the American Association of Geographers, April 3, 2019]

AAG RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE 1

(Adopted by the AAG Council)

Whereas: The American Association of Geographers (AAG) is a nonprofit scientific and educational society founded in 1904 with close to 12,000 members in 2019 who are located in the United States and nearly 100 other countries;

Whereas: The objectives of the Association are to further professional investigations in geography and to encourage the application of geographic findings in education, government, and business;

Whereas: Gilbert F. White (1911–2006) was among the most distinguished and honored American geographers of the 20th Century who stimulated efforts to foster and improve human adjustments to the risks of our endangered planet through better-informed public and private sector decision-making;

Whereas: Gilbert F. White was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Clinton in 2000 for "major contributions to the study of water systems in developing countries, global environmental change, international cooperation, nuclear winter, geography education and the mitigation of natural hazards including earthquakes, hurricanes, and drought;"

Whereas: The planet is now experiencing more frequent, more intense, and more costly disasters associated with anthropogenic climate change in the forms of prolonged drought, wildfires, intensified hurricanes, coastal and river flooding and extreme temperatures. Deglaciation of mountainous regions threatens water supplies and hydro-power generation for hundreds of millions of people in Asia, Europe, western Latin America, and the Pacific Northwest. Accelerated melting of Arctic and Antarctic land ice will cause rising sea levels to inundate portions of coastal cities worldwide by mid-century;

Whereas: At the global scale, the last four years have been the hottest on record. One-fifth of all corals have died in the past three years. World carbon emissions rose 2.7 percent in 2018 despite efforts by many nations to meet the goals of the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement;

Whereas: As climate change renders vast areas of the globe uninhabitable, mass population migrations and competition for water, arable land, and living space will heighten the likelihood of armed conflict, either conventional or nuclear;

Whereas: Gilbert F. White challenged professional geographers to study and communicate the risks of our endangered planet and to help stimulate responsible policies and decisions by all sectors of human society;

Therefore be it resolved that: In the spirit of Gilbert F. White, the American Association of Geographers urges the Government of the United States to resume its leadership in combating climate change, including (but not limited to) strategies that:

1. Recognize human activities as the pre-eminent cause of accelerating climate change, as emphatically concluded by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Fourth U.S. National Climate Assessment, among many other authoritative studies around the world;

2. Reaffirm U.S. commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement, and—in cooperation with the international community—intensify efforts to limit emissions of greenhouse gasses to control further rise in global temperatures;

3. Ratify Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol to limit hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) production and consumption;

4. Encourage transition of the U.S. economy to embrace energy conservation and substitution of sustainable energy sources in place of fossil fuels;

5. Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through incentives, taxes, regulations, public transit, carbon recapture and other means;

6. Promote continued innovation by states and local governments and the private sector to conserve energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels (e.g. through "LEED" green building codes, reforestation and reduced deforestation, watershed management, sustainable transportation, and other means);

7. Stimulate public and private sector decision-makers to prepare for rapid-onset impacts of climate change (e.g. wildfire, electrical grid failure, fuel and water shortages, and coastal flooding) through enhanced emergency response, relief, and recovery capabilities;

8. Reaffirm that climate change policy at all levels of society from international to local must be based on sound, verifiable science as reflected in the IPCC reports, the U.S. National Climate Assessment Reports, and other authoritative studies by scientists around the world;

Be it further resolved that: The AAG will publicize this resolution to government leaders, to other scientific bodies, and to the general public through a press release and other available means. The MG should further encourage its membership to stimulate public understanding of climate change and its potential impacts (including armed conflicts) through relevant research, teaching, publications, and participation in public forums, study panels, oped columns, blog posts, and other available means.

HONORING FORMER POSTMASTER
LOUIS A. JACKSON

HON. STACEY E. PLASKETT

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Postmaster Louis A. Jackson, a native son of the Virgin Islands who dedicated 46 years of his life to the United States Postal Service and serving the American people. During his time with the Postal Service, Mr. Louis Jackson was integral in the building of new post offices, expanding delivery routes, and has served as a mentor for many.

An accomplished and venerable Postmaster, he made a significant difference to the postal system throughout the Virgin Islands and is a three-time winner of the Postal Service's prestigious National Benjamin Award. Many in the community relied on the steady hand and calm demeanor of Mr. Jackson in resolving postal and other issues in the community.

Outside of the Postal Service, Postmaster Jackson is an active member of the community. He has served as a mentor and counselor for the countless young people in the Virgin Islands and taught martial arts to over 3000 students. He also served as the Chairman of the St. Croix chapter of the American Cancer Society, Vice President of the National League of Postmasters, and much more. Postmaster Louis Jackson has lived his life enriching his community and it is my honor on behalf of the 116th Congress and everyone who has been touched by his work and kind spirit, to say thank you.

COMMEMORATING WORLD RANGER
DAY

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe World Ranger Day, which will be commemorated on July 31, 2019.

World Ranger Day was first designated in 2007 as a day to honor Rangers across the globe who have died in the line of duty while protecting the world's historic and natural wonders.

I am honored to represent just a few of these landmarks in my district, including Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks. The Rangers who patrol these parks work tirelessly to protect visitors, promote recreation, and preserve these majestic natural and cultural resources. They are the eyes, ears, and often the first responders across these lands; combatting animal poaching, vandalism, and even wildfires on the frontlines of conservation. Rangers counter these threats not just on our own public lands, but across the globe.

From Harry Yount, the father of the ranger service and the first national park ranger, to the Buffalo Soldiers who fought wildfires and poachers in Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks, rangers have long recognized the need to safeguard our most vital lands. It is our duty to uphold the legacy and example of fallen rangers and do our part to be responsible stewards of our stunning natural wonders.

As President Theodore Roosevelt observed, "We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune." Our Rangers have gone above and beyond to live up to this call, and we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

FRANK RIESINGER

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Frank Riesinger and the valuable contributions he makes to our community.

Mr. Riesinger served as an airman in World War II and has been the driving force behind the V-J Day celebrations here in Broken Arrow, commemorating the end of World War II on August 14th, 1945.

Mr. Riesinger recalls America's great Victory Over Japan from when he was just an 18-year-old airman home in Tulsa on furlough. He remembers standing in his dad's office downtown when he heard an uproar coming from the streets and saw Tulsans celebrating with shouts and car horns, making celebratory noise with whatever they could. This memory has inspired him to continue celebrating that triumphant day.

Thanks to Mr. Riesinger, V-J Day has been commemorated by Oklahomans for the past four years through this wonderful event. I appreciate his work to make sure that this monumental day for the U.S. and Oklahomans, is still remembered.

Although V-J Day is not nationally recognized, the Broken Arrow City Council issued a proclamation making August 14th V-J Day Celebration Day for Oklahomans.

I am grateful for Mr. Riesinger's service to our country and community. Mr. Riesinger's impact on Oklahomans is one that will never be forgotten.

HONORING MENDOCINO COAST
CLINICS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mendocino Coast Clinics on the 25th anniversary of their founding. Since 1994, Mendocino Coast Clinics has provided quality, patient-centered affordable health care.

Originally part of Mendocino County Public Health Services, a group of volunteers came together to form the nonprofit that established Mendocino Coast Clinics on July 1, 1994. That original group became the first board of directors of the new health center, which served 2,500 patients with a staff of seven. Today, Mendocino Coast Clinics serves more than 10,000 patients and is the third-largest employer in the city of Fort Bragg.

Mendocino Coast Clinics provided behavioral health services to the medical services when its doors opened in 1994, and expanded to provide much-needed dental services in 1996. Throughout the past 25 years, Mendocino Coast Clinics has continued to fill medical services gaps in the Fort Bragg and surrounding communities, including obstetrics, pediatrics, and a confidential reproductive health care clinic for teens and young adults. Today, Mendocino Coast Clinics continues to provide these comprehensive services to the community.

Madam Speaker, Mendocino Coast Clinics has for 25 years been a tireless champion for health care in coastal Mendocino County, meeting the needs of the community's most vulnerable populations. Therefore, please join me in recognizing this valuable organization and wishing them success for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEONARD
SAUER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the celebration of Leonard Sauer's 100th birthday.

Leonard was born on August 15, 1919. He owns and operates Village View Dairy Farm in Kellnersville, Wisconsin. Leonard considers himself a lifelong farmer, recalling the days growing up on the farm where he worked from 7 in the morning to 6 at night year-round. When he wasn't working on the farm, Leonard and his brother enjoyed watching the local baseball team.

On November 12, 1947, Leonard married his wife, Helen and they cherished 64 years of marriage together. The couple raised two sons, Gary and John. Leonard built the farmhouse the family lived in from the ground.

An active member of the community, Leonard still attends mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church every Sunday and regularly attends meetings for the Western Fraternal Life Association, which he has been a member of for over 70 years.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize this monumental occasion in Leonard's life. May he have a happy and healthy 100th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF WILLIE MAUDE
ATKINSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Willie Maude Atkinson.

Willie Maude Atkinson was born on August 20, 1919 to Maude and Will Bates of Hobson City, Alabama. She attended the Calhoun County Training School (formerly C.E. Hanna Elementary School and currently Hobson City Hall), and has been a member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church since 1930.

In 1942, Willie Maude married Clyde R. Atkinson. Clyde passed away in 1988. They were blessed with three children, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. She is the oldest citizen born in Hobson City, and the oldest member of the Priscilla and Aquila Order of the Eastern Star.

In the early 1940s, Willie Maude was hired by Howard and Katherine Bentley to assist with the care of their seven children while Mr. Bentley was serving overseas during World War II. The Bentley children and grandchildren considered her a "second mother and grandmother." She remained employed by them until her retirement in the late 1990s. She also assisted the Bailey, Dewberry, Dumas and Pyles families with home care.

Willie Maude Atkinson has positively influenced many lives in her lifetime. She is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to her family and her "adopted" families. Her love and wisdom have been passed on for several generations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Willie Maude Atkinson a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING TUNISIAN PRESIDENT
BEJI CAID ESSEBSI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the United States today stands in solidarity with the noble people of Tunisia as they mourn the passing of their first democratically elected president, Beji Caid Essebsi.

The world will never forget President Essebsi's remarkable stewardship of Tunisia's democratic transition after the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. He was the right man at the right time: a seasoned politician for more than 60 years, President Essebsi was the only Tunisian politician to hold political office in the new democracy as well as throughout dictatorships of Habib Bourguiba and Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. A statement issued by the Tunisian government upon President Essebsi's passing rightly called him one of Tunisia's "greatest

men and one of those who contributed the most to building it."

Tunisia flowered into the model democracy borne out of the Arab Spring in part due the commitment of Tunisians like President Essebsi to realize the dream of Tunisian democracy. Despite being an ardent secularist who championed the rights of women, President Essebsi was also always ready to engage all elements of Tunisian society, including the Islamists, precisely because he believed that all Tunisians have a right to political participation.

As the Tunisian people mourn this great loss, the people of the United States stand with them, ready to lend a helping hand to overcome this next challenging chapter. We send our heartfelt condolences to President Essebsi's family and the Tunisian people. I have no doubt that the people of Tunisia will honor the legacy of President Essebsi's life through their continued awe-inspiring dedication to democracy and the rule of law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 499.

CONGRATULATING NANCY
LACEWELL ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Laceywell on her retirement. Since 1999, Nancy has served as the Director of Government and Community Affairs at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky. She has been a tremendous asset both to the American Printing House for the Blind and the United States Congress. Nancy has been a fixture on Capitol Hill for more than two decades, serving as a valuable resource for members and staff on both sides of the aisle. A tireless advocate, Nancy has educated Members of the House and Senate on the unique needs of people who are blind and visually impaired, informing us on the latest technological advances available to that population. She was instrumental in establishing and coordinating the National Prison Braille Network, a partnership with the Printing House and more than 35 U.S. prisons offering offenders an opportunity to learn braille. Through Nancy's hard work the program has been a major success, to the point where many of the textbooks for blind school students are now transcribed through the prison braille program.

Nancy received her Masters of Arts in French Language and Literature from the University of Louisville. In her retirement, I hope that she will be able to capitalize on those skills to travel to France and other destinations, as well as enjoy life with her husband Rick; her children Jeff, Corrine, and JP; loved

ones; and friends. I thank Nancy for being an advocate, an ally, and source of inspiration for me and for all who will follow in your footsteps. I wish them all the best in a much deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICKY
STEELE-BODGER

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting legacy of Micky Steele-Bodger, who passed away on May 9th at the age of 93. Micky was a larger than life figure in the Rugby world for over 6 decades. He is widely revered and beloved for his immense contribution to the game and the mentorship he provided to several generations of young players and administrators.

Born on September 4, 1925 in Tamworth, England to Henry William and Kathrine nee Macdonald, Micky Steele-Bodger discovered his passion for Rugby at a young age.

He rose to prominence on the pitch while attending Cambridge University. As the captain of the team, Micky twice played in the famous "Varsity Match" between Cambridge and Oxford—a tradition dating back to 1872. In the classroom, he followed in his Father's footsteps by pursuing a veterinary degree.

Shortly after Cambridge, Micky earned himself a spot on the English national team—playing in 9 matches from 1946 to 1948. Although he had a relatively small frame and was only 5' 8", Micky's ruthless determination, versatility on the pitch, and deep knowledge of the game set him apart from many of his competitors.

Unfortunately, his promising career came to an abrupt end due to a bad knee injury when he was only 24 years old. Despite no longer being able to compete on the pitch, Micky was not prepared to walk away from the game he loved. So he promptly transitioned to the administrative and coaching side of the sport, where he went on to make his most significant and lasting impact.

In 1973, Micky was elected as President of the Rugby Football Union and in 1981 he became Chair of the International Rugby Board. Seven years later, in 1988, Micky was selected as the 6th President of Barbarian F.C., an illustrious Rugby club based in Britain. During his 31 year tenure; he molded the club into one of Rugby's marquee organizations. He was regarded as an inspiration and mentor for countless young players, instilling in them the importance of class, sportsmanship, and work ethic.

While Micky will go down in history as one of Rugby's most important and impactful figures, he will also be remembered as one of England's greatest clubmen.

As the longtime Chairman and President of the East India Club, Micky mentored generations of young men. Micky introduced us to the pleasures and gentility of club life.

I will always miss my friend, Micky. But I will also always remember him fondly every time I walk through the doors of the East India Club.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING TIMOTHY NELSON FOR HIS SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Timothy J. Nelson for his service as President of Northwestern Michigan College. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to educational excellence, Tim has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Serving as President of NMC since 2001, Tim has led the college through a dramatic transition and growth as it worked to provide its learners and communities with the skills, experiences and values that will help them to create social and economic wealth during their lifetimes.

In 2011, President Nelson and his wife spearheaded the Global Opportunities Fund, with the goal of providing opportunities for NMC faculty, students, and staff to engage in projects with international partners, exchange knowledge with countries around the world, enhance the learning of world languages, and improve communication across different cultures. The college has also developed global partnerships with educational institutions in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, India, and others—making NMC one of the premier community colleges for providing global experiences.

Under Tim's leadership, NMC has also been committed to helping Veterans achieve their goals, succeed in college, and move onto the next chapter in their lives. Additionally, Tim has worked to include faculty, staff, students, and the local community in conversations related to the future of the college, promoting a culture of inclusivity and success.

Outside of his service as NMC President, Tim has provided valuable support and expertise as a member and leader in the Michigan Community College Association, the American Association of Community Colleges, the Munson Medical Center Board of Trustees, the Traverse City Rotary Club, the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce, and multiple other state and community organizations. Tim will retire on December 31, 2019, as the longest-serving President in the college's history. His impact on the people of Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Timothy Nelson for his 18 years of service as President of Northwestern Michigan College. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Tim all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO AUTHOR AND POLITICAL THEORIST OF 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN CONSERVATISM, DR. RUSSELL KIRK

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Dr. Russell Kirk, a political theorist, moralist, historian, and literary critic, in honor of the historical marker being placed at his beloved home and library in Mecosta, Michigan next month.

As a resident of Mecosta County and a Michigan native, Dr. Kirk led numerous seminars on political theory, culture and virtue while teaching fellows and students for over 40 years, a tradition that his gracious wife, Annette Kirk, still values and honors today through the Russell Kirk Center. Since his passing in 1994, his home has become an educational destination for continued interest in his work by students and scholars alike.

As the author of thirty-two books covering topics from political theory to cultural criticism, Dr. Kirk is considered one of the preeminent thinkers of his time. His first published book in 1953, *The Conservative Mind: From Burke to Eliot*, is one of the most widely reviewed and discussed studies of political ideals in America. Along with his subsequent writings on the topic, Dr. Kirk shaped the modern ideas of American conservatism. As an elite scholar, Dr. Kirk shared his brilliance through his prodigious literary works and received one of our nation's highest honors when President Ronald Reagan conferred the Presidential Citizens Medal upon him in 1989.

Dr. Kirk found his true joy in addressing college audiences because he believed the key to the lasting success of conservative ideas rested on shaping the cultural and moral beliefs of the next generation. In his books, articles, speeches, and interviews, Dr. Kirk shaped the thinking of generations of conservatives around the world. His ideas have personally helped me in forming my own beliefs and it is a privilege to pay special tribute to Dr. Kirk and his legacy today.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored to recognize Dr. Russell Kirk's illustrious career and extend my appreciation for his hard work and dedication. The historical marker in front of his cherished home in Mecosta will help ensure his ideas live on for future generations.

RECOGNIZING RIDE4GABE FOR BRINGING NEEDED AWARENESS TO DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Representatives PALMER, SEWELL, KELLY (TRENT), KUSTOFF, COHEN, CRAWFORD, HILL, WESTERMAN, WOMACK, MULLIN, HERN, LUCAS, THORBERRY, LUJÁN, BUCK, TIPTON, and LAMBORN, I want to recognize three men who will attempt to pedal their bicycles from Bir-

mingham, Alabama to Colorado Springs, Colorado between July 28 and August 3, 2019. Ride4Gabe IV, as it is called, will take the cyclists through eight states in seven days. The group plans to pedal 300 miles the first day followed by days of 234, 198, 206, 232, 232, and 76 miles. The final leg of Ride4Gabe IV will be from Pueblo, Colorado up to 14,115 feet elevation at the summit of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs.

Gabe Griffin, a 14-year-old from Birmingham, Alabama, is the inspiration behind Ride4Gabe. After Gabe was diagnosed with Duchenne, his parents created the non-profit Hope for Gabe Foundation to raise awareness and support efforts to develop a cure for this devastating condition. Michael Staley (38) of Hoover, Alabama, and Wes Bates (24) of Nagoya, Japan, began Ride4Gabe in 2014 when they rode across Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama.

According to Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, Duchenne is the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, affecting approximately 1 in every 3,500 live male births (about 20,000 new cases each year worldwide). Because the Duchenne gene is found on the X-chromosome, it primarily affects males; however, it occurs across all races and cultures and there are cases of females with Duchenne.

Duchenne results in progressive loss of strength and is caused by a mutation in the gene that encodes for dystrophin. Because dystrophin is absent, the muscle cells are easily damaged. The progressive muscle weakness leads to serious medical problems, particularly issues relating to the heart and lungs. Individuals with Duchenne typically live into their late twenties.

Building on the success of the first Ride4Gabe event, Payne Griffin, 23, of Washington, D.C. joined Michael and Wes for Ride4Gabe II in 2016 and the group pedaled across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida. Brian Toone, 42, of Hoover, Alabama, dubbed his effort Ride4Gabe III as he competed, in the grueling Race Across America. Brian finished 3rd place overall as he traversed California, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland in just over ten days.

The Ride4Gabe IV team will be live streaming their adventure online as they pass through Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. As the riders tire and their muscles get sore, they will draw strength and inspiration from Gabe and the Duchenne community. Their hero, Gabe, would love to ride a bicycle with them but Duchenne makes doing so impossible. With our help, Duchenne patients like Gabe can continue to hope for a cure so they, too, can go on an epic bike ride or play baseball, football, or basketball with their friends.

On behalf of my colleagues representing congressional districts along the Ride4Gabe IV route, I am pleased to recognize Ride4Gabe IV. The awareness that will be raised through Ride4Gabe will lead to greater public awareness about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. It is our hope that Gabe Griffin and every other patient who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy will soon have access to a treatment and ultimately a cure.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSORS
BARBARA MCFARLAND AND MI-
CHAEL WHITEMAN

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Professors Barbara McFarland and Michael Whiteman as they step down from the faculty at the Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. Their tenure has brought Chase bigger ideas, brighter days, and better futures for any student lucky enough to sit in their classrooms.

One of Professor McFarland's greatest gifts is to provide every student she encounters with the resources and encouragement to achieve their best work—in law school and beyond. After 15 years at Chase, she is retiring to continue her work inspiring young minds, this time with young, at-risk children.

I took a short quiz to celebrate Professor Whiteman's retirement and I scored a 6/10, which was pretty similar to some of my scores in his class! After 17 successful years at Chase, Professor Whiteman is headed off to a law school down the road. Professor Whiteman has been described by his colleagues as one of the most genuine and kind-hearted people they have ever met, and I truly could not agree any more.

I know firsthand that Professors McFarland and Whiteman's passion for supporting a student's success can be the definitive factor between giving up and getting a degree, and I am so thankful for the impact they had on my educational and personal development. Professors McFarland and Whiteman are about to begin new journeys for themselves, but they can rest assured that their legacies will live on in the Chase Law School community. I thank them for all they have done and wish them good luck in all future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF DEP-
UTY ALLEN KRAEGER'S RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE WAUPACA
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Deputy Allen Kraeger on celebrating his retirement from the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office. His leadership left a major impact on Wisconsin law enforcement and is an excellent example of service to the community.

Chief Deputy Kraeger is an exceptional public servant who dedicated his professional life to upholding the law. Starting as Reserve Deputy in 1972, Chief Deputy Kraeger held positions as a Corrections Officer and Patrolman before beginning full time employment as a Highway Patrolman with the Waupaca County Highway Patrol in 1978. After the merging of the Waupaca County Highway Patrol and Waupaca County Sheriff's Office in 1983, Chief Deputy Kraeger was reassigned as a Patrol Deputy with the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Deputy Kraeger served in many roles during his tenure with the Waupaca County

Sheriff's Office. He was designated as the first Rapid Intense Specific Competencies Instructor, promoted to the position of Detective Sergeant, and appointed to his current position of Chief Deputy in 1996. Through all these positions, he exemplified a steadfast commitment to providing superior service and protection to the communities of Waupaca County.

During his time as Chief Deputy, Chief Deputy Kraeger was instrumental in promoting teamwork, communication, and strategy to combat controlled substance violations. He embraced the Office's membership and participation in the Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force. He was also instrumental in the assignment of two full-time Drug Investigator positions within the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office. Chief Deputy Kraeger was also a member of several professional organizations including the Wisconsin Narcotics Officers Association, National Narcotic Officers Association Coalition, and Wisconsin Sheriff's and Deputy Sheriff's Association, to name a few.

Chief Deputy Kraeger served with diligence, selflessness, and bravery throughout his law enforcement career. Waupaca County is fortunate to have officers like Chief Deputy Kraeger who exemplify and exceed their oath to serve and protect. I am proud to represent men and women with such commitment to their communities and our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Chief Deputy Kraeger for his service and dedication to protecting our community. I congratulate him on an exceptional 41-year career with the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office and wish him well as he marks the conclusion of an accomplished career.

LET ALL U.S. CITIZENS TRAVEL
TO CUBA RESTORE THEIR RIGHT
TO TRAVEL—H.R. 3960

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce today H.R. 3960, the Freedom for Americans to Travel to Cuba Act of 2019, along with my colleagues, Representatives TOM EMMER (R-MN), KATHY CASTOR (D-FL), RICK CRAWFORD (R-AR), BARBARA LEE (D-CA), DARIN LAHOOD (R-IL), JOSÉ SERRANO (D-NY), GUY RESCHENTHALER (R-PA), DONALD BEYER, JR. (D-VA), and DENVER RIGGLEMAN (R-VA). I'm also proud to stand with my good friend, Senator PATRICK LEAHY, who will be introducing this bill in the Senate on Monday with 45 bipartisan cosponsors.

This bipartisan bill addresses an issue I care very deeply about—the right of American citizens—my constituents—to travel freely anywhere in the world. Freedom of movement, freedom to travel, the basic right of any U.S. citizen to choose freely where they can go in this world has always been a fundamental part of being an American.

Foreign governments might choose to deny our citizens a visa. They might restrict where Americans can go when they arrive inside a foreign country. But the U.S. government and the U.S. Congress should not be in the business of imposing restrictions on our own citizens.

Yet this is what Congress has done to U.S. citizens when it comes to only one country for the last 60 years—Cuba.

Americans can travel to China, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Russia, Iran and Syria—each with human rights records arguably as bad or worse than Cuba's and, it should be noted, each of these countries also support Nicholas Maduro in Venezuela. And until just recently, Americans could even travel to North Korea.

This is an anachronistic policy, left over from the Cold War and proven to be ineffective at leveraging change by the Cuban government. The only people it harms are American citizens and those in Cuba striving to create innovative economic alternatives to state-controlled enterprises.

Ironically, continued efforts to further restrict the right of Americans to travel to Cuba have had devastating consequences for Cuba's fledgling private sector—the very people the United States aims to help—which had grown to be approximately 30 percent of Cuban economy as a result of more Americans traveling to the island during the last Administration.

Madam Speaker, I believe that the American people are our very best ambassadors; that they reflect the democratic values, curiosity, and innovation that make our country so great. Congress should not be in the business of denying them their own rights.

Congress stripped away this basic right, and only Congress can restore it. It's past time for us to do so. I urge all my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to cosponsor this bipartisan bill and ensure its passage in the 116th Congress.

I include in the RECORD an opinion piece by Chris Sabatini entitled, *Trump Doubles Down on Failed Cuba Policy*, which was published in *The New York Times* on July 24, 2019.

[From the *New York Times*, July 24, 2019]
TRUMP DOUBLES DOWN ON FAILED CUBA
POLICY

THE CUBAN AUTOCRACY REMAINS A NAGGING RE-
MINDER OF UNITED STATES IMPOTENCE IN
ROOTING OUT COMMUNISM

(By Christopher Sabatini)

The Trump administration's effort to bring about the end of Cuba's repressive government by squeezing the island's economy promises only more suffering for Cuban citizens, who are already struggling under Fidel Castro's failed economic project.

The White House is hurting the very people—ordinary Cubans—it claims to support. Not only are their potential sources of independent income (and, with it, political independence) drying up, so is their access to food—and their hopes for the future.

For decades, the Cuban autocracy has been a nagging reminder of United States impotence in rooting out Communism. Washington's embargo on Havana was tightened by Congress in 1992 and 1996—with the unintentionally ironic titles of the Cuban Democracy Act and what's known as the Cuban Liberty Act.

This pressure has always come with tough talk from Republicans, who like to claim that the Castro government's time is up. John Bolton, the national security adviser, is the latest hawk to spew this empty rhetoric.

Yet more than 58 years of isolating Havana has shown that the strategy doesn't follow any logical theory of regime change, even if it plays well in South Florida. Isolation has only reinforced the Cuban government's effort to make its citizens economically dependent on the Communist state.

There was a brief break in America's hard-line approach when, in December 2014, President Barack Obama announced a loosening of the embargo and the normalization of relations. President Trump reversed course and rolled out many of the past, failed sanctions against Cuba, plus some new ones.

Those have included restricting Americans' travel to officially approved group trips with cultural organizations, ending the allowance for American cruise ships to dock in Cuban ports, plans to reduce to \$1,000 the amount of money that Cuban-Americans can send to Cuba every three months, and allowing United States citizens to sue foreign companies over the use of property expropriated by the Castro government (a provision suspended by Republican and Democratic administrations since it was passed in 1996).

By the White House's own admission, these policies will reduce by half the number of American tourists visiting the island. That number last year was 600,000. American tourists had been helping to support the private restaurants, shops and the approximately 20,000 Airbnb's that have sprung up in recent years.

Support for Havana from the regime in Venezuela, another target of the Trump administration, has been halted, compounding Cuba's economic troubles.

Shortly after he was inaugurated as president of Venezuela in 1999, Hugo Chávez, threw the struggling Cuban economy a lifeline, sending 100,000 barrels of oil a day, half of which the Cuban government sold on the world market for hard currency. As partial payment for the cheap oil, Cubans provided intelligence and military support to Mr. Chávez and to his successor, Nicolás Maduro, to help them consolidate their corrupt, autocratic project.

But as Venezuelan oil production plunged in recent years, and global prices fell, Cuba's life-support system dried up to between 20,000 and 50,000 barrels per day, as of April.

The Trump administration has seen the weakness of these two economies as an opportunity to push for regime change in both countries.

The first target was Mr. Maduro, hoping his fall would bring democracy to his country and thus bankrupt the Cuban regime, finally bringing it to its knees. Now, as administration officials face their failed, overhyped efforts to topple Mr. Maduro, they have changed their focus: they are blaming Cuba for Mr. Maduro's survival—rather than Mr. Maduro for the Cuban government's survival.

Cubans—and the Cuban leaders—have been through worse. American restrictions on trade and travel to Cuba are minor compared to the difficulties they faced after the collapse of the Soviet Union, during which the Cuban economy contracted by more than one third. Even then, with food, electricity and hope all in short supply, the Castro government survived.

Today, Cuba's leadership, under Raúl Castro's handpicked successor, Miguel Díaz-Canel, is once again rallying the island nation's citizens to tighten their belts, for example by promoting hutia, a local rodent, as a source of protein. And other authoritarian powers, like China and Russia, are more than willing to throw even just a bit of economic help, and lots of anti-American ideological support, which didn't exist during the post-Cold War period.

The Trump administration's strategy will fail, as it has in the past, and ordinary Cuban citizens will continue to bare the brunt of a misguided American policy. When will American leaders finally learn the lessons of history?

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN L. SHAFER, P.E., RECIPIENT OF THE MILWAUKEE WATER COUNCIL'S THIRD ANNUAL "WATER WARRIOR OF THE YEAR" AWARD

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Shafer, the long serving Executive Director of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and a recent recipient of the Milwaukee Water Council's third annual "Water Warrior of the Year Award," which is given to acknowledge those in the water industry who advance the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math (STEAM) education.

MMSD provides wastewater treatment reclamation and flood management, among other services, for about 1.1 million customers in 28 communities in the Greater Milwaukee Area.

The award acknowledges Kevin's dedication to growing MMSD's internship program which provides students with hands-on learning experience to inspire and educate students about future water-related careers in areas such as water quality protection, laboratory services, engineering, construction and sustainability. According to the CEO of the Water Council, "When it comes to supporting and nurturing our next generation of water professionals we always know that Kevin will say an emphatic yes when we ask him to do more."

For over 25 years, MMSD has grown its internship program which now hires 25 students every summer. For example, during the summer of 2018, MMSD worked with the Water Council to place two African-American junior engineering students from Tuskegee University to work as interns with a goal of increasing the number of African-Americans pursuing water as a career. This is just one of several efforts by MMSD to invest in and develop a diverse water workforce in the Milwaukee area.

Kevin Shafer has served as executive director of MMSD since 2002. Throughout his career at MMSD, Kevin has helped to make the utility a leader when it comes to the adoption and use of green infrastructure, has been instrumental in efforts to transform MMSD's stormwater management system, and continues to foster innovative means of protecting the District's water supply.

Prior to this position, Kevin worked in the private sector at an international engineering firm and spent six years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Currently, Kevin is a Chair on both the United States' Water Alliance Board of Directors and the Water Council Board of Directors. Kevin was formerly President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

It is an honor to recognize Kevin Shafer for his dedication to the residents served by MMSD and in being an innovative water industry leader who is constantly trying to find new ways to deal with the challenges facing MMSD. I applaud the high level of professionalism and service that he has brought to MMSD and have no doubt he will continue to serve our community in the same distinguished manner as he has done throughout his career.

IN RECOGNITION OF WAHCONAH PARK'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 100th anniversary of Wahconah Park in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Wahconah Park has been a loyal, magical home for America's favorite pastime since the 19th century, when the game of baseball was first played on its grounds in 1892. Most of the ballpark's facilities, however, including its wooden grandstand, were officially built in 1919—and they have filled with lovers of the game ever since.

Over the course of more than a century, Wahconah Park has hosted numerous Minor League Baseball teams, other professional clubs and affiliates, as well as summer collegiate teams—like the Pittsfield Suns, who currently call Wahconah home. As the Pittsfield Suns' team owner Jeff Goldklang has said, baseball is about history, and it's about memories. Wahconah Park is certainly steeped in both. It is a testament to the game Americans have loved for decades and continues to be a destination for generations of families who come to the Berkshires to watch it come to life. And beyond baseball, Wahconah Park has also played host to various high school sporting events, and alternated into a concert venue at times as well.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Wahconah Park on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The ballpark is city-owned and has been integral to the fabric of Pittsfield's community. It represents the longevity, history, and character of not only the Berkshires, but all of western Massachusetts.

RECOGNIZING JERRY SHEA, SR.

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a pillar of Louisiana, Iberia Parish icon, Jerry Shea, Sr., who recently passed away at the age of 93.

Jerry was born in Louisiana and lived some young years in Texas. He has been a resident of New Iberia, LA, since 1942. After serving three years in the Air Force and graduating from Louisiana State University with a degree in petroleum engineering, he went to work for his father's welding company, Bayou Welding Works. Eventually Jerry and his late brother Edward "Buddy" Shea, Jr. went on to start several offshoots of Bayou, including Bayou Pipe Coating in 1971. Jerry was inducted into the National Association of Pipe Coating Applicators Hall of Fame in 1996 and retired from Bayou in 2000 after providing 55 years of leadership in the family business. In addition to his family business, he served as chairman of the board of New Iberia National Bank during the 1980s.

Despite his business success, Jerry is even more well-known for his commitment and dedication to his community. He and his wife, Harriet, have received numerous recognitions for

their community involvement, including receiving the “Distinguished Citizen Award” from the Boy Scouts Evangeline Area Council in 2001 and the 2013 Leaders in Philanthropy Award from Community Foundation of Acadiana for Iberia Parish. They also founded a scholarship at Catholic High School. Most recently, Jerry was the Grand Marshall of the local St. Patrick’s Day Parade and a former King of the Krewe of Andalusia. In fact, Jerry was so active in New Iberia, people would often refer to him as the “unofficial mayor of New Iberia.”

Jerry’s impact on New Iberia, Louisiana, will never be forgotten and he deserves great recognition. His passing is a true loss to his family, his community and to Louisiana.

Jerry and his bride, Harriet, have six children, 21 grandchildren, and 33 great grandchildren. I join his family in mourning his passing and celebrating his life.

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL THIRD DISTRICT YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I honor five individuals and businesses from Nebraska for receiving the Inaugural Third District Young Entrepreneur Awards.

Throughout the 75 counties of the Third District, entrepreneurs and innovators are working hard to grow opportunity in our state.

In May, I called for nominations as part of a new initiative to recognize the young individuals, businesses, and organizations in the Third District who strengthen their communities through fresh ideas, hard work, and entrepreneurship.

Papa Moon Vineyards of Scottsbluff began in 2007 as a grape growing hobby for the Massey family, and has since evolved into an absolute passion for grape cultivation and craft-wine production. Over the next several years, their passion evolved into a family business. Named for the moniker the youngest Massey family member gave his grandfather, winery owner Jim, it has truly become a family project. The Masseys opened their tasting room in 2018 to share their passion for viticulture and love of winemaking. They are a proud family-owned farm winery, with a focus on the cultivation and production of high quality product.

Upstream Farms of Albion, is led by brothers Matthew and Joseph Brugger. They work every day to bring new meaning to the phrase, “Farm to Table.” The Bruggers co-founded Upstream with the goal of establishing better rural communities. They saw few opportunities for young people to become involved in agriculture, and wanted to create a business that would inspire young agriculturalists and entrepreneurs to pursue their passion in a rural community. To demonstrate their desire to embrace their vision, Upstream is more than just a traditional farm. Upstream strives to demonstrate diversification through action, offering services in agronomy, technical innovation, resale of market ready produce, and Angus products.

Striv Inc. of Henderson, is led by Taylor Siebert. He discovered his passion for sharing

stories when he started the Heartland Beat, an online blog and newsletter, to reach out to alumni of Heartland Community School. This experience inspired Taylor to explore other avenues for schools and their alumni to create and share content. This discovery process led to the founding of Striv Inc. in 2012. Today, Striv Inc. has taught hundreds of students the necessary skills to provide high quality streaming access and coverage of school events and activities for their schools and communities. The business currently provides educational and streaming services to over 100 school districts in Nebraska. Ever the innovator, Siebert has never stopped creating. The purpose of his latest development, “Class Intercom,” is to help school districts more effectively utilize social media to maximize connection, promotion, and information sharing in their communities. Taylor could have created his internet-driven business in any state in the country. He chose to come back to Nebraska, back to his hometown, and invest his talents in training tomorrow’s leaders and creating a better version of the, “The Good Life.”

The Medina Street Vault Coffeehouse & Bistro of Cairo is owned by Jenna Schweitzer. Through the experiences of her high school job as barista, owner Jenna Schweitzer realized her life’s passion was coffee. She knew she wanted to open her own coffee shop, and to attempt to share her passion with her hometown. In 2017, thanks to Jenna’s vision, hard work, and the support of her family she opened her coffee shop and bistro in a former bank building in Cairo, and strategically selected her food and drink menu to ensure she complemented, and supported other local businesses. Schweitzer feels The Vault has become an experience area residents turn to when they want a place to meet their friends, relax, and lose two or three hours in conversation. Her goal of creating a family-centered environment to share her passion with others has become a reality.

Game On of McCook is owned by Cody Dame. Thanks to a 2007 submission to the Hormel Business Plan Competition permanently changed his professional direction. Winning the business plan competition allowed him to transition from owning his own traveling videography and disc jockey service to pursuing his passion of building a community through creating a fun and experiential environment for all ages. Quickly growing from a 1,000 square foot retail space to a much larger location in the community of McCook, Cody has expanded into the communities of North Platte, Kearney, and Grand Island as well. Game On has become a successful regional retail business, committed to strengthening the communities in which they are present.

I am proud to recognize each of these award winners today, and I thank them for their many contributions to Nebraska.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MITROVICH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I mourn the passing of my friend, my neighbor, and San Diego icon: George Mitrovich.

I often joked that one of the reasons I ran for office was so that George could introduce me at events. He was a dynamic and articulate speaker with a velvet voice. It was always an honor to be introduced by him.

During the debate leading up to a vote on the Affordable Care Act in 2009, I held a town hall meeting with constituents to hear their thoughts. I knew interest in the meeting was very high and there would be a big crowd.

I thought to myself, who do I know who could control a large, feisty—possibly angry—group of people. Of course the answer was George. When I asked him if he wanted to take on the challenge, he said he was delighted.

More than 1,200 people attended that town hall and people were fired up. With his commanding presence, George deftly moderated the event—kept folks in line and the proceedings on course.

It is virtually impossible to travel around San Diego and not see George’s impact. He was on just about every board and every commission. What an incredible amount of boundless ideas and endless energy he had. And he kept it up until his final days.

It wasn’t just San Diego that benefited from his talents. George was active in causes and events in many cities around the country.

George was a writer, a public speaker, and an athlete. But mostly, he was a trusted and loyal friend.

Above all, I send condolences to his loving family.

It is safe to say that San Diego won’t see the likes of George Mitrovich again.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HILLARY A. DAVIS, WOMEN’S CONGRESSIONAL POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW ON WOMEN AND PUBLIC POLICY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Hillary A. Davis, Congressional Fellow with the Women’s Congressional Policy Institute on Women and Public Policy. For the past 7 months, Ms. Davis has been working as a research and writing associate.

Ms. Davis is a native of Tampa, Florida, and chose to follow in her godmother’s footsteps and attend the historic Fisk University in Nashville, TN. There she majored in Political Science, and while at Fisk, Ms. Davis established herself as a servant leader by being elected to serve on the Student Government Association and as chapter president of Fisk’s collegiate chapter of NAACP. Upon graduating from Fisk, she returned to Tampa and began a career as a human resource professional in the information technology industry. Ms. Davis also holds a Master of Public Administration from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA.

Throughout her time on the Committee, Ms. Davis has displayed a high degree of professionalism and personal commitment to providing staff valuable insight and information. In all of this, Ms. Davis has demonstrated benevolence, vitality, and enthusiasm, which has helped all of us enormously.

We thank Ms. Davis for her service to the Committee and our country and wish her the very best as she continues her outstanding professional journey.

IN RECOGNITION OF CODY
SPLITT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran and retired attorney Cody Splitt as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Esther "Cody" Splitt was born in Wausau, Wisconsin in 1919. From a young age, Cody knew she wanted to serve her country and make an impact in her community. At the height of WWII, she joined the U.S. Navy and served in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. While serving, she worked on naval intelligence and was the head of personnel for WAVES.

After leaving the Navy in 1945, Cody pursued her dream of becoming a lawyer. Through the G.I. Bill, she attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she was one of five women in her class. She graduated in just three years with a bachelor's and law degree.

Cody met and married her husband, Harley, while attending UW-Madison. After her graduation, the couple moved to Appleton where Cody opened the second woman-owned law firm in Outagamie County. At age 66, she was elected president of the Outagamie County Bar Association, the first woman to hold that position. Cody retired from the legal profession at age 75 and joined the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors. She won subsequent bids for reelection and served on the Legislative/Audit Committee until she resigned at the age of 82. In addition, Cody served on the Outagamie County Health and Human Services Board.

Her contributions to the community are vast and continue to be honored. In 2013, Cody was honored as a Woman of Distinction by the Mid-Day Women's Alliance. She was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Law Journal in 2015. In 2016, the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce inducted Cody into the Business Hall of Fame for her success and influence as a business leader.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise in recognition of Cody Splitt's 100th birthday. I would like to thank Cody for her service in the U.S. Navy and continued commitment to improving the Fox Valley community. May she have a happy and healthy birthday.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM J.
NOONAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my dear friend, William J. Noonan, on his well-deserved retirement. After a long

and successful career in government and the gaming industry, the last 18 years of which he spent at Boyd Gaming, Bill leaves Las Vegas better than he found it. I am sad to see him depart his official position but know he will stay involved in our community.

After graduating from Missouri State and subsequently receiving his Master's in Public Administration from the University of Kansas, Bill spent years managing cities across this country and guiding them through both tough and exciting economic periods. Although gaming was not widely legalized throughout the country when Bill first landed in Las Vegas in the 1990s, he sensed the tides turning and worked with city leaders to prepare for its expansion.

It was important to Bill to foster strong relationships between the gaming industry and the communities in which companies operated, and he went above and beyond his professional duties to accomplish this. With his strategic thinking and amiable personality, Bill made Boyd Gaming a better community partner and Las Vegas a stronger and more prosperous community through his service as Vice Chairman and Executive Board member of the Nevada Resort Association.

I had the pleasure of hosting Bill as my guest to the State of the Union one year. It is difficult to find someone who enjoys politics as much as Bill. But Bill has been so much more than just an observer: Bill has run a casino; dined with U.S. presidents; guided economic development and philanthropy in Las Vegas as Chair of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and through the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance; served on the Board of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority; and helped unify our community after the horrific events of 1 October.

He is well respected in the gaming industry intentionally and has been recognized numerous times for his leadership, including as Gaming Professional of the Year. He has truly left his mark on Las Vegas, and we are all indebted to him for it. I wish Bill and his wife, Sylvia, all the best in their future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING MR. HENRY
RODRIGUEZ MARTINEZ, SR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Mr. Henry Rodriguez Martinez, Sr. of Dallas. Mr. Martinez was a father, veteran and a local civil rights leader that was committed to bettering our DFW communities throughout his life of public service.

Mr. Martinez was son of West Dallas, and spent his life making sure that communities of color had a seat at the table. He was an early pioneer in building Latino political power in our community and was one of the loudest advocates in the fight to guarantee better representation for all people of color on the Dallas City council. I know he would be proud to see the diversity we have on our city council today.

Mr. Martinez also worked to ensure the safety of West Dallas and the greater DFW-area. Martinez was an active member of the Eagle Ford/Ledbetter Community of West Dallas throughout his life and as the president of

the Ledbetter Neighborhood Association helped improve local transit across the community and improve the quality of life for those that lived there.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Martinez's family and friends. West Dallas is losing a fighter and advocate for their community. His spirit and accomplishments are irreplaceable, but we will always strive to emulate them.

RECOGNIZING THE 113TH ANNIVERSARY AND 95TH GENERAL CONVENTION OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

HON. STEVEN HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 113th Anniversary and 95th General Convention of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (ΑΦΑ) is the first African-American, intercollegiate Greek-lettered fraternity. It was initially a literary and social studies club organized in the 1905–1906 school year at Cornell University but later evolved into a fraternity with a founding date of December 4, 1906. Its aims are "Manly Deeds, Scholarship, and Love For All Mankind," and its motto is "First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All."

Chapters were chartered at Howard University and Virginia Union University in 1907. The fraternity now has over 290,000 members and has been open to men of all races since 1945. Currently, there are more than 730 active chapters in the Americas, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, and Asia. It is the largest predominantly African-American fraternity and one of the ten largest collegiate fraternities in the nation.

Alpha Phi Alpha is a social organization with a service organization mission and has provided leadership and service during the Great Depression, both World Wars, and the Civil Rights Movement. The fraternity has addressed social issues such as apartheid, AIDS, urban housing, and other economic, cultural, and political issues of interest to people of color.

National programs and initiatives of the fraternity include A Voteless People Is a Hopeless People, My Brother's Keeper, Go To High School, Go To College, Project Alpha, and the World Policy Council. It also conducts philanthropic programming initiatives with the March of Dimes, Head Start, the Boy Scouts of America, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Currently the fraternity is involved in a vigorous civic engagement initiative aimed at voter protection and a full census count for people of color.

Members of this fraternity include many historical civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., NAACP founder W. E. B. Du Bois. Other world-renowned members include political activist Cornel West, musicians Duke Ellington and Lionel Richie, NBA legend Walt Frazier, Jamaican Prime Minister Norman Manley, Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens, Justice Thurgood Marshall, Investor and founder of Vista Equity Partners Robert F. Smith, United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, Academy Award winning director Barry

Jenkins, six time MTV Video Music Awards winning director and choreographer Frank Gatson Jr., the hero of the Nashville Waffle House shooting, James Shaw Jr., and ESPN sportscasters Stuart Scott, Stan Verrett and Jay Harris.

Alpha Phi Alpha asserts that through its community outreach initiatives, the fraternity supplies voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans, the African diaspora, and the countless unique problems that affect Black men. The fraternity provides for charitable endeavors through its Education and Building Foundations, providing academic scholarships and shelter to underprivileged families. The fraternity combines its efforts in conjunction with other philanthropic organizations such as Head Start, Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Project Alpha with the March of Dimes, NAACP, Habitat for Humanity, and many Fortune 500 companies.

In Las Vegas, since 1964 and 1993 respectively, the Theta Pi Lambda and Sigma Psi Chapters hold high the light of Alpha. We boast in our ranks Brothers Chief State Supreme Court Justice Michael Douglas; Chief District Judge Addeliar D Guy, III; Dr. James McMillan, the 1st Black Dentist in Nevada; Rev. Dr. Marion Bennet; Dr. Bob Bailey, the 1st Black TV Personality in Nevada; Ricki Y. Barlow, Las Vegas City Councilman; NV Assemblyman Steven Brooks; and Cedric Crear, Las Vegas City Councilman. Over the past 5 years they have reinvested over \$140,000 in scholarships and boast a 100 percent college acceptance rate, through the Alpha Men and Divas of Tomorrow Mentoring program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I attempted to vote in favor of H.R. 3239. Unfortunately, due to a mechanical error during yesterday's vote on this bill, my vote was not recorded.

As a legislator, a medical professional, and an advocate of humane treatment for all people, I am proud to support this bill because it will raise the minimum standards for medical treatment of migrants and asylum seekers seeking refuge at our southwestern border.

I went to the border to view the circumstances on the ground and what I saw were inhumane conditions. Men, women, and children should never be placed in cages.

In 2018 alone, there were nine migrant deaths that occurred after an encounter with Customs and Border Protection—including seven-year-old Jakelin, who died of dehydration and shock; and eight-year-old Felipe, who died from influenza while in the custody of Customs and Border Protection.

In the first half of 2019, there have been ten deaths, including a two-year-old who died from

pneumonia and a 16-year-old who died from influenza.

All these deaths could have been prevented. The tragic deaths of these children do not go unrecognized and are an unfortunate and disgraceful symptom of the inhumane treatment occurring at our southwest border.

H.R. 3239, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act, introduced by Congressman RAUL RUIZ, raises the bar on humanitarian standards at our southern border.

Migrant children require protection from harm, but we already know this from our own personal experiences. Our children and grandchildren need pediatric health assessments and appropriate medical attention. So do migrant children.

Your child's pediatrician needs the equipment and medications for assessment, triage and treatment. So do the health care providers for migrant children. Migrant children escaping dire situations deserve the same care for their hygiene and health.

You wouldn't allow your children or grandchildren's safety, nutrition, health and hygiene needs to go unmet because you know that they can lead to illness and death—like the deaths of the children who died after being detained at the border.

We must do better. We must dig the bar out of the ground for the humane and dignified treatment of migrants and raise it up to, at minimum, international levels, so that no more deaths occur on our watch. I commend and support my colleague, Congressman RUIZ, for introduction and passage of this bill in the House of Representatives.

THE SAFEGUARDING STUDENT VETERANS ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss the Safeguarding Student Veterans Act.

In recent years, we have seen a wave of abrupt closures of colleges in Maryland and around the country, particularly those operating for profit. When a college closes, students are the ones that bear the burden and are left asking "what's next?"

Students who have spent thousands of dollars can just be left with credits they are often not able to transfer. This leaves entire families placed in financial limbo due to circumstances of which the student was unaware.

In the last five years, close to a half million students were impacted by closures of around 1,200 campuses. They were robbed of their education and a chance to better themselves.

When these schools close, student veterans using the GI Bill benefits they have earned through their courageous service are dis-

proportionately impacted. Furthermore, many for-profit schools have been found to target veterans for enrollment with deceptive and predatory practices.

Between 2014 and 2018, the closure of for-profit colleges impacted almost 22,000 students using the GI Bill.

In 2016, when ITT Technical Institute closed its doors, about 7,000 of its 40,000 students were on the GI Bill.

Last year, Education Corporation of America suddenly ceased operations. Nearly 4,000 of its 18,000 students were using the GI Bill.

In addition to harming veterans, these closings also leave taxpayers on the hook because the Department of Veterans Affairs has to double the amount of funding it provides for GI Bill beneficiaries when a school closes and their credits do not transfer.

After serving our nation, veterans using their GI Bill benefits should have faith that they will be able to complete their degrees without their schools suddenly closing.

We must do better for our veterans.

Our veterans have served our country, and we must honor the sacrifices they made as they transition back into civilian life and seek to better themselves through education.

That is why I am introducing bipartisan legislation to protect these student veterans. This week I am introducing the Safeguarding Student Veterans Act with Congressman Ted Yoho of Florida. Our bill will increase coordination between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Education, require the Department of Veterans Affairs to better understand and track the risks that certain schools pose to veterans, and empower veterans when deciding on which schools to attend.

Under the bill, when the Department of Education determines that any school, including for-profits, are facing significant financial and compliance issues, the Department of Education would need to notify and coordinate with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Department of Veterans Affairs would then need to undertake a risk analysis for these schools. The analysis would include information the Department of Veterans Affairs receives from the Department of Education as well as additional factors such as the volume of student complaints, rates of Federal student loan defaults by veterans, and veteran completion rates.

The Department of Veterans Affairs would then notify veterans of the results of the risk analysis and include the findings in the Department of Veterans Affairs' online GI Bill Comparison Tool.

I am proud that our bill has wide-ranging support, including from the American Legion, Veterans Education Success, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Safeguarding Student Veterans Act. We must do better to protect our student veterans.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Gen. Mark A. Milley, to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5073–S5119

Measures Introduced: Forty-one bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2261–2301, and S. Res. 284–286. **Pages S5106–08**

Measures Reported:

S. 918, to prohibit the President or a Federal agency from constructing, operating, or offering wholesale or retail services on broadband networks without authorization from Congress, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 116–66) **Page S5102**

Measures Passed:

Empowering Beneficiaries, Ensuring Access, and Strengthening Accountability Act: Senate passed H.R. 3253, to provide for certain extensions with respect to the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S5114**

Scott (FL) (for Blunt) Amendment No. 930, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5114**

Arizona Judicial District: Senate passed H.R. 1569, to amend title 28, United States Code, to add Flagstaff and Yuma to the list of locations in which court shall be held in the judicial district for the State of Arizona. **Pages S5114–15**

DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act: Senate passed H.R. 504, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5115**

Federal Agency Customer Experience Act: Senate passed S. 1275, to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Pages S5115–17**

Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2196, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the bill was then passed. **Page S5118**

United States Intelligence Professionals Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 286, designating July 26, 2019, as "United States Intelligence Professionals Day". **Page S5118**

Veto Messages:

Resolutions of Disapproval of Proposed Transfers of Certain Defense Articles and Services—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, July 29, 2019, Senate begin consideration of the veto messages with respect to S.J. Res. 36, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed transfer to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Spain, and the Italian Republic of certain defense articles and services, S.J. Res. 37, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of France of certain defense articles and services, and S.J. Res. 38, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of certain defense articles and services, with the time until 5:30 p.m., divided as under the order of Wednesday, July 24, 2019; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, July 25, 2019, ripen following disposition of the joint resolutions.

Bipartisan Budget Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that when the Senate receives H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, it be placed on the calendar and not be required to lay over a day before a motion to proceed is in order. **Page S5114**

Liburdi Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. **Pages S5080–81**

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, July 25, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur following disposition of S.J. Res. 38, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of certain defense articles and services. **Pages S5080–81**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Pages S5080–81

Welte Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Peter D. Welte, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota. **Page S5081**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. **Page S5081**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5081**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5081**

Hendrix Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. **Page S5081**

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 Peter D. Welte, of North Da-

kota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota. **Page S5081**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5081**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5081**

Jordan Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas. **Page S5081**

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 James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. **Page S5081**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5081**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5081**

Pittman Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. **Page S5081**

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 Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas. **Page S5081**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5081**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5081**

Brown Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Pages S5081–82**

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 Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. **Pages S5081–82**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5081**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5081**

Starr Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. **Page S5082**

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 Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Page S5082**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5082**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5082**

Haines Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. **Page S5082**

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 Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. **Page S5082**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5082**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5082**

Brown Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. **Page S5082**

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 Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. **Page S5082**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5082**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5082**

Grimberg Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. **Page S5082**

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 Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. **Page S5082**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5082**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5082**

Pulliam Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas. **Page S5083**

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 Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. **Page S5083**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5082**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Pages S5082–83**

Pacold Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Page S5083**

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 Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas. **Page S5083**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5083**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5083**

Seeger Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Page S5083**

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 Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Page S5083**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5083**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5083**

Stickman IV Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. **Page S5083**

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 Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Page S5083**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5083**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5083**

Immergut Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Karin J. Immergut, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon. **Page S5083**

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 William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. **Page S5083**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5083**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5083**

Younge Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John Milton Younge,

of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Page S5084**

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 Karin J. Immergut, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon. **Page S5084**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5084**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5084**

McElroy Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island. **Page S5084**

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 Milton Younge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Page S5084**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5084**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5084**

Gallagher Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. **Page S5084**

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 Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island. **Page S5084**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5084**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5084**

Rowland Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Page S5084**

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 Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. **Page S5084**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5084**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5084**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 89 yeas 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 230), Gen. Mark A. Milley, to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. **Pages S5093, S5119**

Joseph V. Cuffari, of Arizona, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security. **Page S5119**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

Pages S5118–19

Messages from the House: **Page S5101**

Measures Referred: **Page S5101**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S5101**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5101–02**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S5102–06**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5108–10**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5110–11**

Additional Statements: **Page S5100**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S5113**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S5113–14**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—230) **Page S5093**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:05 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, July 29, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5118.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

HEMP PRODUCTION AND THE FARM BILL

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine hemp production and the 2018 farm bill, after receiving testimony from Greg Ibach, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Stephen Alexander Vaden, General Counsel, both of the Department of Agriculture; Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency; Amy Abernethy, Principal Deputy Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Erica Stark, National Hemp Association, Reading, Pennsylvania; Darrell G. Seki, Sr., Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Red Lake, Minnesota; and Brian Furnish, Cynthiana, Kentucky.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

ENERGY INNOVATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the importance of energy innovation to economic growth and competitiveness, after receiving testimony from Brian Anderson, Director, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Department of Energy; John Deskins, West Virginia University Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Morgantown; David M. Hart, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Washington, D.C.; S. Lee Ragsdale, Jr., North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, Raleigh; and Isaac Vanderburg, Launch Alaska, Anchorage.

THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING REDUCTION ACT OF 2019

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, "The Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2019".

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 398, to support the peaceful resolution of the civil war in Yemen, to address the resulting humanitarian crisis, and to hold the perpetrators responsible for murdering a Saudi dissident; and

The nominations of Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to

the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia, Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, Richard B. Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Libya, John Rakolta, Jr., of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years, Michelle A. Bekkering, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Richard K. Bell, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Jessica E. Lapenn, of

New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, Mary Beth Leonard, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Lana J. Marks, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, and lists in the Foreign Service.

STATE AND FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine state and Federal recommendations for enhancing school safety against targeted violence, after receiving testimony from Max Schachter, Safe Schools for Alex, and Tom Hoyer, Stand with Parkland-The National Association of Families for Safe Schools, both of Coral Springs, Florida; Bob Gualtieri, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, Largo, Florida; and Deborah Temkin, Child Trends, Bethesda, Maryland.

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: 123 public bills, H.R. 3957–4079; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 56; and H. Res. 522–529 were introduced. **Pages H7462–67**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7471–73**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7381**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:10 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H7389**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rabbi Gershon Avtzon, Yeshivas Lubavitch Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH. **Page H7389**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:56 p.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m. **Page H7396**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following

measure. Consideration began Wednesday, July 24th.

U.S. Senator Joseph D. Tydings Memorial Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2019: H.R. 693, amended, to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 333 yeas to 96 nays, Roll No. 510. **Pages H7397–98**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Department of State Authorization Act of 2019: H.R. 3352, amended, to provide for certain authorities of the Department of State; **Pages H7412–36**

Short-Term Detention Standards Act: H.R. 3670, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure access to appropriate temporary shelter, food, and water for individuals apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

Pages H7436–38

Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019: H.R. 2336, amended, to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the definition of “family farmer”.

Pages H7438–39

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019: The House passed H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, by a yea-and-nay vote of 284 yeas to 149 nays, Roll No. 511. **Pages H7390–95, H7396–97, H7398–H7409, H7439–40**

Rejected the Massie motion to amend the title by a yea-and-nay vote of 47 yeas to 384 nays, Roll No. 512. **Page H7440**

H. Res. 519, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3877) and (H.R. 549) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 232 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 509, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 508. **Pages H7390–95, H7396–97**

Venezuela TPS Act of 2019: The House passed H.R. 549, to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, by a recorded vote of 272 yeas to 158 noes, Roll No. 514.

Pages H7409–12, H7440–43

Rejected the Reschenthaler motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 215 yeas to 217 noes, Roll No. 513. **Pages H7440–42**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–28 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. **Page H7409**

H. Res. 519, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3877) and (H.R. 549) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 232 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 509, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 508. **Pages H7390–95, H7396–97**

Allowing the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration on the date of enactment of this Act to continue to serve as such Deputy Administrator: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S. 2249, to allow the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration on the date of enactment of this Act to continue to serve as such Deputy Administrator. **Page H7443**

Permitting official photographs of the House of Representatives to be taken while the House is

in actual session on a date designated by the **Speaker:** The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 420, permitting official photographs of the House of Representatives to be taken while the House is in actual session on a date designated by the Speaker. **Page H7443**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for an event to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first African slaves to the territory that would become the United States: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Con. Res. 53, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for an event to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first African slaves to the territory that would become the United States. **Page H7443**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H7443.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7396, H7396–97, H7398, H7439–40, H7440, H7441–42, and H7442–43. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Committee Meetings

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security held an oversight hearing on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Testimony was heard from Matthew T. Albence, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT: MODERNIZING AMERICA’S LABOR LAWS

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions held a hearing entitled “Protecting the Right to Organize Act: Modernizing America’s Labor Laws”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Kilmer, Chairman McGovern, Chairman Takano, and Representatives Brindisi, Case, Slotkin, Pascrell, Bishop of Georgia, Ted Lieu of California, Kaptur, Grothman, Phillips, Levin of California, Casten of Illinois, Haaland,

Schweikert, Shalala, Watson Coleman, Meng, McBath, Sablan, Napolitano, Levin of Michigan, Lipinski, Roybal-Allard, Herrera Beutler, Trone, Golden, DeLauro, González Colón of Puerto Rico, Torres Small of New Mexico, Malinowski, Finkenauer, Wittman, Cohen, Balderson, Delgado, Gonzalez of Texas, Westerman, Kevin Hern of Oklahoma, Keller, Perry, and Plaskett.

EXAMINING THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE DATA IN UNDERWRITING AND CREDIT SCORING TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CREDIT

Committee on Financial Services: Task Force on Financial Technology held a hearing entitled “Examining the Use of Alternative Data in Underwriting and Credit Scoring to Expand Access to Credit”. Testimony was heard from Lawrance Evans, Managing Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: A REGIONAL OUTLOOK

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled “Human Rights in Southeast Asia: A Regional Outlook”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RUSSIA AND ARMS CONTROL: EXTENDING NEW START OR STARTING OVER?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment held a hearing entitled “Russia and Arms Control: Extending New START or Starting Over?”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HOMELAND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF THE OPIOID CRISIS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism; and the Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations held a joint hearing entitled “Homeland Security Implications of the Opioid Crisis”. Testimony was heard from Sondra McCauley, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Department of Homeland Security; Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor, New York City, New York; James Edward Hinson, Jr., Deputy Chief, Investigative Bureau Commander, Greensboro Police Department, North Carolina; and a public witness.

OVERSIGHT OF FAMILY SEPARATION AND U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SHORT-TERM CUSTODY UNDER THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of Family Separation and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Short-Term Custody under the Trump Administration”. Testimony was heard from Brian S. Hastings, Chief, Law Enforcement Operations, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Department of Homeland Security; Jonathan H. Hayes, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; Commander Jonathan White, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Department of Health and Human Services; Joseph B. Edlow, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice; and Diana R. Shaw, Assistant Inspector General for Special Reviews and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

INCREASING RENEWABLE ENERGY ON PUBLIC LANDS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Increasing Renewable Energy on Public Lands”. Testimony was heard from David Bobzien, Director, Office of Energy, Office of the Governor, Nevada; Robert Lovingood, San Bernardino County Supervisor, First District, California; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on H.R. 335, the “South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2019”; H.R. 729, the “Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act”; H.R. 2185, the “District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2019”; H.R. 3115, the “Living Shorelines Act of 2019”; H.R. 3237, the “Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Extension Act”; H.R. 3510, the “Water Resources Research Amendments Act”; H.R. 3541, the “Coastal State Climate Preparedness Act”; H.R. 3596, the “Keep America’s Waterfronts Working Act”; and H.R. 3723, the “Desalination Development Act”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Kilmer, and Representatives Levin of California, Neguse, Norton, Mast, Carbajal, and Pingree; Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Deputy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator, Department of Commerce; Karl Stock, Acting Director of Policy and Administration, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior;

Rick Shintaku, General Manager, South Coast Water District, Laguna Beach, California; and public witnesses.

WHEN SCIENCE GETS TRUMPED: SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “When Science Gets Trumped: Scientific Integrity at the Department of the Interior”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a markup a resolution authorizing Chairman Elijah E. Cummings to subpoena records relating to the Committee’s investigation into the use of non-official electronic messaging accounts by non-career officials at the White House, including from Acting White House Chief of Staff John Michael “Mick” Mulvaney; S. 406, the “Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2019”; H.R. 3889, the “ONDCP Technical Corrections Act”; H.R. 887, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the “Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building”; H.R.1252, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the “Marilyn Monroe Post Office”; H.R. 1253, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the “Ritchie Valens Post Office Building”; H.R. 1972, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the “Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building”; H.R. 2151, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the “Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office”; H.R. 3207, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Mill Street in Hookstown, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Dylan Elchin Post Office Building”; H.R. 3314, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the “Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”; and H.R. 3329, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5186 Benito Street in Montclair, California, as the “Paul Eaton Post Office Building”. S. 406, H.R. 3889, H.R. 887, H.R. 1252, H.R. 1253, H.R. 1972, H.R. 2151, H.R. 3207, H.R. 3314, and H.R. 3329 were ordered reported, without amendment. A resolution authorizing Chairman Elijah E. Cummings to subpoena

records relating to the Committee’s investigation into the use of non-official electronic messaging accounts by non-career officials at the White House, including from Acting White House Chief of Staff John Michael “Mick” Mulvaney was ordered reported, as amended.

EXAMINING JUUL’S ROLE IN THE YOUTH NICOTINE EPIDEMIC: PART II

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy held a hearing entitled “Examining JUUL’s Role in the Youth Nicotine Epidemic: Part II”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BENIGN BY DESIGN: INNOVATIONS IN SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled “Benign by Design: Innovations in Sustainable Chemistry”. Testimony was heard from Tim Persons, Chief Scientist and Managing Director, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

THE COMMERCIAL SPACE LANDSCAPE: INNOVATION, MARKET, AND POLICY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing entitled “The Commercial Space Landscape: Innovation, Market, and Policy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled “Supporting the Next Generation of Agricultural Businesses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE FEDERAL ROLE IN IMPROVING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “Examining the Federal Role in Improving School Bus Safety”. Testimony was heard from Brenda Sue Fulton, Chair and Chief Administrator, Motor Vehicle Commission, New Jersey; Kristin Poland, Deputy Director, Office of Highway Safety, National Transportation Safety Board; and public witnesses.

VistA TRANSITION: ASSESSING THE FUTURE OF AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS PIONEER

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled "VistA Transition: Assessing the Future of an Electronic Health Records Pioneer". Testimony was heard from Carol Harris, Director, Information Technology Acquisition Management, Government Accountability Office; and the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Paul Tibbits, Executive Director, Office of Technical Integration, Office of Information and Technology; Charles C. Hume, Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Office of Health Informatics, Veterans Health Administration; Thomas O'Toole, Senior Medical Advisor, Office of the Assistant Deputy Undersecretary for Health for Clinical Operations, Veterans Health Administration; and John Short, Chief Technology and Integration Officer, Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY 2100 ACT

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Social Security 2100 Act". Testimony was heard from Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration; and public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a business meeting on historical documents protected under Internal Revenue Code section 6103. A letter from the Joint Committee on Taxation and attachments was ordered reported, without amendment.

BUSINESS MEETING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a business meeting on Consideration of the Access Request from Rep. Elissa Slotkin and Rep. Mike Thompson; and Consideration of the Access Request from Rep. Stephanie Murphy. Member access requests were granted.

CREATING A CLIMATE RESILIENT AMERICA: BUSINESS VIEWS ON THE COSTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Creating a Climate Resilient America: Business Views on the Costs of the Climate Crisis". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a business meeting to consider recommendations to Streamline and Reorganize House Human Resources, Overhaul the Onboarding Process and Provide Continuing Education for Members, Modernize and Revitalize House Technology, and Make the House Accessible to all Americans. The recommendations passed.

Joint Meetings

STATE OF MEDIA FREEDOM

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine the state of media freedom in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe region, after receiving testimony from Harlem Desir, Representative for Freedom of the Media, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Vienna, Austria.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Patient Perspective: The Devastating Impacts of Skyrocketing Drug Prices on American Families", 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, July 29

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will begin consideration of the veto messages with respect to S.J. Res. 36, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed transfer to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Spain, and the Italian Republic of certain defense articles and services, S.J. Res. 37, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of France of certain defense articles and services, and S.J. Res. 38, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom

of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of certain defense articles and services, and vote on passage of the joint resolutions, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, in the order listed, at 5:30 p.m.

Following disposition of S.J. Res. 38, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, July 26

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

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