The House met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RASKIN).

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

WASHINGTON, DC, July 30, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMIE RASKIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER
Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, you are light, and wherever You shine, You cast out the darkness. We have become so very aware of the darkness which invades this world and causes distrust and discord.

Come now into this place and into our hearts, dispel the darkness, and bring on Your kingdom of light. Let peace reign in this place today and always.

We make this prayer in the power of Your spirit and Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a) of House Resolution 509, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, July 26, 2019:

H.R. 1569, to amend title 28, United States Code, to add Flagstaff and Yuma to the list of the locations in which court shall be held in the judicial district for the State of Arizona; 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC, July 29, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 30, 2019, at 10:04 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2666.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
ROBERT F. RIEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

EMPOWERING BENEFICIARIES, ENSURING ACCESS, AND STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019
Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table 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, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Speaker, House of Representatives.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 29, 2019, at 10:17 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1569.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
ROBERT F. RIEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

This Act may be cited as the “Sustaining Excellence in Medicaid Act of 2019”.

□ 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.
There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1275. An act to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker on Friday, July 26, 2019:

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 28, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(b) of House Resolution 509, consistent with the fourth clause in section 5 of Article I of the Constitution, and notwithstanding section 132 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Friday, August 2, 2019.

Thereupon (at 11 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), consistent with the fourth clause in section 5 of Article I of the Constitution, and notwithstanding section 132 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, August 2, 2019, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1781. A letter from the FFAP-BC, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Emergency Conservation Program [Docket No.: FSA-2019-0006] (RIN: 0560-AH16) received July 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(c)(1), (2)(B); Public Law 112-78 (112 Stat. 251); (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1782. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Office's report on discretionary appropriations legislation within seven calendar days of enactment, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 501(a)(7)(B); Public Law 109-148 (42 U.S.C. 1315(a)(7)(B)) (as amended by Public Law 114-113, Sec. 1003); (129 Stat. 3055); to the Committee on the Budget.

1783. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's semi-annual report on Energy Conservation Standards Activities for July 2019, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 13894; Public Law 109-58, Sec. 141(b); (119 Stat. 616); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1784. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Feather River Air Quality Management District; Correc-

1785. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Market-Based Incentives for Ozone-Related Air Pollution: New Stationary Sources Exemption Program (40 CFR Part 90) (Region 9) received July 24, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 501(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1786. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emer-

1787. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency declared with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007 is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2019, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (90 Stat. 1176); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1788. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 23-92, "Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Support Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 620(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1789. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-95, "Water Storage Eminent Domain Authority Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 620(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1790. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-95, "Power Line Undergrounding Program Certified Business Enterprise Utilization Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 620(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1791. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-99, "Department of Health Functionality and Capacity Restoration Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 620(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1792. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 23-93, "Firearm Safety Omnibus Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 620(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. LAMAR), H.R. 4099. A bill to require the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education and Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself and Mr. GOLDEN), H.R. 4097. A bill to amend the America COMPETES Act to reauthorize the ARPA-E program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. ROONEY of Florida), H.R. 4095. A bill to improve United States considerations of, and strategic support for, programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence from the onset of humanitarian emergencies and build the capacity of humanitarian assistance to address the immediate and long-term challenges resulting from such violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself and Mr. GOLDEN), H.R. 4094. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, acting through the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, to submit to Congress a report regarding the age and condition of fire stations in the United States, to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself and Mr. POOHL), H.R. 4096. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a special needs poverty level, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CORREA, H.R. 4093. A bill to amend the America COMPETES Act to provide for a notice and cure period before the commencement of a private civil action, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. SHEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. WALORSKI), H.R. 4098. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to encourage the development of measures to prevent and deter opiodic drugs, 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. BASS (for herself, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MOORE, Ms. MENG, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. WATERMAN COLEMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CLEAVELAND, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. BRAT, Mr. JAYAPAL, Ms. CARABE of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. OCASIO-CORTZ, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. GHIJA), H.R. 4090. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to encourage the development of measures to prevent and deter opioidic drugs, 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. CLARK of Massachusetts, H.R. 4092. A bill to require the screening of 100 percent of international cargo inbound into the United States from high-risk countries to detect and prevent the importation of illicit fentanyl and other illicit synthetic opioidic drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.
By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. Ted LIEU of California): H.R. 4103. A bill to establish an advisory committee to oversee the use of real estate technology as a tool for professional development for Federal workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Mr. STEVENS): H.R. 4104. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Negro Leagues baseball; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself and Mr. MEADOWS): H.R. 4105. A bill to authorize the Transatlantic Dialogue (United States-European Union Interparliamentary Group), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURÉ (for herself, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. GRIJALVA): H.R. 4106. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to restrict direct-to-consumer advertising to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mr. ROONEY of Illinois, and Mr. SCHIFF): H.R. 4107. A bill to authorize funding for section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. KILDREW, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SHANGRIL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SKEWELL of Alabama, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. HARKIN, Ms. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HORSFORD): H.R. 4108. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early education and dual or concurrent enrollment programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ): H.R. 4109. A bill to codify the Small Business Growth Accelerator Fund Competition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. FINKENAUER (for herself and Ms. EVELYN): H.R. 4110. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to increase a set-aside for the Rural Project Initiative of the TIFIA program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GIBBS (for himself and Mr. RYAN): H.R. 4111. A bill to authorize State opioid response grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HALL (for himself, Mr. DRUTCH, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. CRUST, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MUCARCEL-POWELL, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SOTO, Ms. FRANKEL, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida): H.R. 4112. A bill to designate Hawaii under section 234 of the migration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Haiti to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section during and after the period of certification for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma: H.R. 4113. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for a percentage of student loan forgiveness for public service employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SPEICHER, and Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico): H.R. 4114. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit a person from receiving substantial assistance relating to a contribution or donation by a foreign national, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. WOJACK, Mr. MUSE, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. FLORES, Mr. TROY, and Mr. TRUMEN): H.R. 4115. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to establish a point of order against long-term direct spending, 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. MOULTON, and Mrs. MCBATH): H.R. 4116. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to combat straw purchases of firearms and drug trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania): H.R. 4117. A bill to establish a point of order against the disadvantaging of individual retirement plans with respect to employer-sponsored retirement plans by helping taxpayers comply with laws affecting individual retirement plans, by providing for reduced penalties under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for certain self-directed IRA connections with illegal businesses, and by expanding the Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System to cover certain errors under individual retirement plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. STEVE BUTTINGHAM, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PALONE, Mr. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. SHIVES, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. LANGEVIN): H.R. 4118. A bill to establish a United States Commission on Hate Crimes to study and make recommendations on the prevention of the commission of hate crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. VARGAS): H.R. 4119. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the interest-free grace period certain loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. TLAIB): H.R. 4220. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of first-time homeowner assistance programs established by States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TLAIB, and Ms. WILSON of Florida): H.R. 4221. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to enhance Social Security benefits and maintain the commitment and the long-term solvency of the Social Security program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on 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 Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. SCHNEIDER): H.R. 4222. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for full benefits for disabled widows and widowers without regard to age; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. SCHNEIDER): H.R. 4223. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the redemption of the widow’s and widower’s insurance benefits by reason of delayed retirement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. SCHNEIDER): H.R. 4224. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the two-year waiting period for divorced spouse’s benefits following the divorce; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. SCHNEIDER): H.R. 4225. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the 7-year restriction on eligibility for widow’s and widower’s insurance benefits based on nonmarital children; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY: H.R. 4226. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to credit individuals serving as caregivers of dependent relatives with deemed wages for up to five years of such services; to support State medical training programs for caregivers; 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. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. PALONE, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RUSH, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LOEB, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CORDENAS, Mr. PETE, Mr. KUSTER of Indiana, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. O’HALLORAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RYAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SPENCER, Mr. CUÉLLAR, and Ms. HAALAND): H.R. 4227. A bill to establish a broadband infrastructure finance and innovation program to make available loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit for the construction and deployment of broadband infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUJÁN: H.R. 4228. A bill to improve the collection and aggregation of fixed and mobile broadband internet service coverage data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. COHEN, and Mrs. WAGNER): H.R. 4229. A bill to provide for a Medicare demonstration project to evaluate the fiscal impact of covering low vision devices as durable medical equipment under part B of the Medicare program; 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. MARCHANT (for himself and Mr. Smith of Missouri):

H. R. 4130. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the ceiling on the sum of deductible and the other annual out-of-pocket expenses required to be paid under a high deductible health plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. O’HALLORAN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. WITTMAN:

H. R. 4131. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify the eligibility of certain community mental health centers to register for purposes of the practice of telemedicine; 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 Ms. VELA:

H. R. 4132. A bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H. Res. 530. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the amount of the Members’ Representation Allowance should be increased in response to increasing threats against Members of the House; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. FORTENBERRY):

H. Res. 531. A resolution expressing concern over the prevalence of hazardous working conditions for children, especially the worst forms of child labor in the mining of cobalt and other minerals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOPFREN:

H. Res. 532. A resolution proposing a strategy to make Medicare available to all Americans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and 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. ROUDA:

H. Res. 533. A resolution recognizing the accomplishments of professional surfer and surfwear executive Danny Krewos; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. STAUBER:

H. Res. 534. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Open of Surfing; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H. Res. 535. A resolution recognizing August 6, National Night Out, the national coming together of Americans all over the Nation to unite and promote public safety; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

H. Res. 123. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, calling upon the People’s Republic of China to immediately end the practice of organ harvesting from all prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and explicitly from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience and ethnic minorities; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H. R. 4138. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deem certain State Veterans homes meeting certain health and safety standards meeting conditions and requirements for skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare and Medicaid programs; 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. VELA:

H. R. 4139. A bill to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H. Res. 536. A resolution expressing concern over the prevalence of hazardous working conditions for children, especially the worst forms of child labor in the mining of cobalt and other minerals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H. Res. 537. A resolution proposing a strategy to make Medicare available to all Americans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and 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. ROUDA:

H. Res. 533. A resolution recognizing the accomplishments of professional surfer and surfwear executive Danny Krewos; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. STAUBER:

H. Res. 534. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Open of Surfing; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H. Res. 535. A resolution recognizing August 6, National Night Out, the national coming together of Americans all over the Nation to unite and promote public safety; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H. R. 4091. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. MENO:

H. R. 4092. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. STAUER:

H. R. 4093. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. ROONEY of Florida:

H. R. 4096. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(1) The U.S. Constitution including Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KEATING:

H. R. 4097. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H. R. 4096. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H. R. 4099. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H. R. 4100. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. BASES:

H. R. 4101. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This resolution is enacted pursuant to the power granted in Congress under Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H. R. 4102. 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
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rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 4103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CLEAVE:

H.R. 4104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Title 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8.

By Ms. DeLAURO:

H.R. 4106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DeSAULNIER:

H.R. 4107.

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. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 4108.

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 Ms. FINKENAUER:

H.R. 4109.

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. GIBBS:

H.R. 4110.

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. GIBBS:

H.R. 4111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution:

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 4112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 4113.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Taxing & Spending Clause (Art. I, §8, cl. 1)

The Necessary & Proper Clause (Art. I, §8, cl. 18)

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 4114.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 4115.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 4116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const., art. I, §8, cl.14

By Ms. KIND:

H.R. 4117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 4118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority to offer this bill derives from Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 4119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 4120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 4121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. LOWEY:

H.R. 4122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 4123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I:

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 4124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I:

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 4125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I:

By Mr. LUJÁN:

H.R. 4127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I:

By Mr. LUJÁN:

H.R. 4128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 4130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. MASTSUI:

H.R. 4131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 4132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 4133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 2 of section 3 of article IV of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 4136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, 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 Ms. SUOZZI:

H.R. 4137.

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. VELA:

H.R. 4138.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers generally granted to Congress, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive.

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
ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 40: Mr. Larson of Connecticut.
H.R. 45: Mr. Johnson of Texas.
H.R. 94: Ms. Sewell of Alabama, Mr. Gallager, Mr. Nadler, Ms. Castor of Florida, and Mr. Sherman.
H.R. 141: Ms. Matsui.
H.R. 150: Mr. Takano.
H.R. 216: Mr. Johnson of Ohio.
H.R. 218: Mr. Cheshaw and Mr. Baird.
H.R. 335: Mr. Waltz.
H.R. 336: Mr. Lucas.
H.R. 444: Mrs. Bratton.
H.R. 497: Mr. Johnson of Ohio.
H.R. 541: Mr. Levin of California.
H.R. 546: Mr. Gohar.
H.R. 550: Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 561: Mr. Johnson of Ohio, Mr. Steube, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Banks, Mrs. Axne, and Mr. Grijalva.
H.R. 566: Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Cicilline, and Mr. Mast.
H.R. 573: Ms. Granger and Mr. Mast.
H.R. 580: Mr. Tinney.
H.R. 587: Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania and Mr. Spano.
H.R. 613: Ms. Schrier, Mr. Neuse, Mr. Stewart, and Mrs. Axne.
H.R. 616: Mr. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Graves of Louisiana, Mr. LaMalfa, Mr. Cline, and Mr. Walker.
H.R. 714: Mr. Loudermilk.
H.R. 749: Mr. Cunningham.
H.R. 837: Ms. Finkenauer.
H.R. 864: Mrs. Bratton.
H.R. 865: Mr. Connolly and Ms. Torres Small of New Mexico.
H.R. 871: Mr. Heck, Mr. Takano, and Mr. Cisneros.
H.R. 872: Mr. Chen, Mr. Gohar, and Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 912: Mr. McGovern, Mr. Knanna, Ms. Wild, Mr. Christ, and Mr. Vargas.
H.R. 943: Ms. Sewell of Alabama, Mr. Moolah, Ms. Finkenauer, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Wittman.
H.R. 948: Mr. Mitchell.
H.R. 1079: Mr. Cuellar and Mr. Harder of California.
H.R. 1098: Mr. Cuellar.
H.R. 1109: Mr. Finkenauer.
H.R. 1104: Mr. Cuellar and Ms. Finkenauer.
H.R. 1042: Mr. Cox of California and Mr. Sherman.
H.R. 1043: Ms. Eshoo.
H.R. 1045: Mr. Richmond.
H.R. 1049: Mr. Price of North Carolina.
H.R. 1060: Mr. Vargas.
H.R. 1054: Ms. Scallon.
H.R. 1133: Ms. Castor of Florida and Mr. Bera.
H.R. 1160: Mr. Cuellar, Mr. Stivers, Ms. Schrier, Mrs. Lucia, and Mr. Harder of California.
H.R. 1174: Ms. Brownley of California.
H.R. 1175: Mr. Kustoff of Tennessee.
H.R. 1179: Mr. Cline.
H.R. 1191: Ms. Torres Small of New Mexico, Ms. Davids of Kansas, Mr. Vasey, and Ms. Kuster of Ohio.
H.R. 1225: Mr. Phillips, Ms. Waters, and Mr. Brra.
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.
Eternal God, who provides us with strength for life’s journey, today, empower our Senators with an extraordinary measure of grace to accomplish Your purposes. As they work under the duress of time and pressures from diverse interests, inspire them to strive to live with integrity, making ethical decisions that honor You.

Lord, be with their staff members who run the offices and provide the data needed for responsible decisions. Be with those who process the mountains of business in and out of cloakrooms. Lord, sustain those who transcribe the debates for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Bless those who monitor parliamentary order, schedules, and voting records. Protect those who provide security at the doors, on the floors, and on the streets. And, Lord, bless our pages. Strengthen all who are a part of the Senate’s support system, surrounding them with Your protection and favor.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY
Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I want to take our Nation and my colleagues back to the Revolutionary War.

More than 240 years ago, sailors aboard the warship Warren disclosed significant misconduct by the commander of the Continental Navy. The Congress then recognized these brave whistleblowers’ valuable contribution to our brand new Republic because, on this day—today—in 1778, Congress passed this resolution, saying: “It is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States . . . to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds, or misdemeanors committed by any offices or persons in the service of these states.”

That is the beginning of the government recognizing whistleblowers as valuable patriots.

Following in their footsteps, this Senate has also unanimously agreed to designate today as National Whistleblower Appreciation Day.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate has a lot of important business to attend to before we adjourn for the August State work period. As a reminder to all of our colleagues, here is our considerable to-do list for this week: Later this morning, we will vote to confirm two more of President Trump’s impressive nominees for district courts: Michael Liburdi for the District of Arizona and Peter Welte for the District of North Dakota.

They are just the first two in a significant group of judges—19 in all—that the Senate needs to process before we wrap up the week. We can’t head home without making another big dent in the backlog of qualified district judge nominees whom partisan obstruction has already kept waiting entirely too long.

In addition, the Senate is not going anywhere until we confirm two impressive nominees to executive branch positions that play a vital role in U.S. foreign policy and national security. Ambassador Kelly Craft is President Trump’s excellent choice to serve as our Ambassador to the United Nations. David Norquist is his pick for Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Needless to say, these are troubling times in a troubled world. We need to get both of these highly capable public servants on the job this week.

Finally, we must also pass the bipartisan government funding agreement that President Trump’s negotiating team worked out with Speaker PELOSI. Given the realities of divided government, it is a strong deal that achieves my Republican colleagues’ and my No. 1 priority: continuing to invest seriously in rebuilding the readiness of our Armed Forces and modernizing them to meet the challenges of today.

The Trump administration has negotiated their way to a major win on defense. The House has passed the compromise legislation. The President is ready and waiting to sign it.

Once the Senate passes it later this week, he can sign it into law, taking funding crises and long-term continuing resolutions off the table, and pave Congress’s path toward a regular appropriations process that will provide the resources our military commanders and our servicemembers need to keep us safe.

I urge all of my colleagues to join President Trump in support of this legislation when we vote on it later this week.

*This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.*
TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN WEEDEN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, as Senate majority leader, it is my honor this morning to acknowledge a truly remarkable legacy of service to the Senate and really to the Nation.

Next month, the Senate Page School will say goodbye to its beloved principal. After 26 years heading up this unique institution, our very own Mrs. Kathryn Weeden is starting a new chapter as a very deserving retiree.

For more than a quarter century, Principal Weeden has been a constant anchor in a place where rotation and change are par for the course.

The Page School, as we know, welcomes a new class of high-achieving young people from all across the country every semester. These students’ experience is most famous for the fast-paced, hands-on exposure to the inner workings of American government it involves, but in the early mornings and late nights they are not delivering bill text around the Capitol, assisting Members on the floor, or engaged in any number of tasks that help this place actually run, they are also dealing with the academic rigors of the 11th grade.

"There are 30 teenagers at a time living, studying, and working full time on Capitol Hill. Needless to say, keeping this unique arrangement running smoothly is less than an ordinary job—even a full-time one—and more like a life’s work. All accounts, it is a mission Principal Weeden has executed with constant competence, total professionalism, and the utmost grace.

Now, if I had to guess, a large share of that grace was spent in 5 a.m. meetings most mornings. That is typically when she would first encounter what I am sure were the most chipper and alert 16- and 17-year-olds around. While the hundreds of pages who have worked, studied, and grown under Principal Weeden may not miss their early morning math class, they sure will miss her. They are left with lasting memories of her attentive mentorship and compassion.

Among recent graduates of the Page Program, some of whom I have been proud to sponsor through my own office, the conclusion is clear: Principal Weeden is simply the best.

They remember the way she would make it a point to seek out meetings to check up on their progress and talk about their future goals. They remember the way she radiated excitement leading the school in assembling care packages for servicemembers deployed overseas. They remember her knack for reassuring words and for helping them put the daily stresses of high school in perspective.

Inevitably, after 26 years, Principal Weeden’s legacy is counted in the flood of letters sharing stories like these following her retirement, but it is also measured in her commitment to transform the Page School as a top-notch academic institution.

It is thanks to her no-nonsense leadership that this unique program has earned and maintained accreditation, that its rigors have earned the attention and respect of prestigious universities, and that it continues to attract talented and passionate educators to carry on the work.

Unsurprisingly, the colleagues and faculty whom Ms. Weeden has mentored and supervised are no less enthusiastic in their praise than her former students. Talking to them about their departing boss, you hear words like disciplined, nurturing, and patriotic. You are painted a picture that looks something like a Mother Superior, a no-nonsense administrator, an exacting leader, and a true friend all in one.

Being entrusted with the care, feeding, education, and maturation of so many young men and women over so many years would be an accomplishment no matter where Principal Weeden had worked, but to do all that at the Senate Page School means something even more. To a special degree, her legacy will have helped, formed, and shaped America’s civic future for the better.

Because she gave of herself so generously to a special class of young people—those who are so interested in our American Government that they just had to come see it firsthand—today, the Senate celebrates this outstanding legacy and warmly congratulates Principal Weeden for all that she has done, and we wish her nothing but happiness in the years that lie ahead.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BUDGET AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate has just a few more days this week to pass legislation to lift the budget caps and extend the debt ceiling before the summer State work period. As the minority leader, I don’t have control over the floor schedule; Why don’t we vote on the caps deal today?

For congressional leaders and the White House reached an agreement 2 weeks ago. The President supports it. The House has already passed it. Secretary Mnuchin has said we need this legislation urgently before the State work period because he can’t guarantee that we will not hit the debt ceiling before Congress reconvenes. The majority leader spoke about the importance of moving the budget agreement back in mid-May. Now the clock is ticking.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another matter, last week former Special Counsel Mueller testified that Russian interference in our democracy was a single attempt. They’re doing it as we sit here and they expect to do it in the next campaign.

The Russians, he apprised in the last election and are trying to interfere again. Mueller said: ‘‘Much more needs to be done in order to protect against these intrusions, not just by the Russians but by others as well.’’

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on election security, wherever you turn these days, you see people talking about Russian interference in our democracy. The Senate Intelligence Committee, chaired by a Republican, Senator Burr, did the same.

It is with these facts as the backdrop—the testimony of prominent Republicans, allies of President Trump and friends and allies of our colleagues here—that Democrats have been pushing for election security—so far, to little avail. Leader McConnell and the Republican majority have not allowed a single election security bill to reach the floor of the Senate. We haven’t had a single bill open for amendment all year.

So, last week, understandably frustrated at the lack of progress, Democrats asked unanimous consent to pass House legislation to safeguard our elections. Leader McConnell blocked that request saying yesterday: ‘‘I am not going to be a water-carrier in the media use Russia’s attack on our democracy as a Trojan horse for partisan wish list items.’’

‘‘Partisan wish list items’’—really? What are these items on our partisan wish list, you might ask? Using paper ballots is widely agreed upon as a reform to protect our elections from manipulation. Does Leader McConnell object to paper ballots? Does Leader McConnell believe paper ballots are necessary? They are part of our elections, whoever wins.

How about this one: We want the postelection audits to make sure the
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Presiding Officer. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Presiding Officer. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael T. Liburd, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

VENEZUELA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to thank the leader, Senator SCHUMER from New York, for his introduction of the remarks I am about to make. But before I do, let me preface it with this— Bowen says that I spoke with him more. When you take a look at this empty Senate Chamber and realize we are in session this week with the possibility of bringing important legislation to the floor, you have to ask the obvious question: Why? Why aren't we acting like a Senate? Why are we meeting and having speeches instead of debate on important legislation? What could be more important than the security of an election?

We have a lot of young people across America. We say to them: Register to vote. Your vote makes a difference. You get to choose the leaders for this country's future. Be sure and vote. We have to let them believe we are with you. Your vote is under attack—first, by apathy—people don't register and they don't vote—and second, by outside foreign influence and forces.

We know what happened 4 years ago in the Presidential election. The Russians tried to invade the U.S. electoral process and change it. I know it firsthand because it happened first in the State of Illinois. Turns out someone put together a computer program that had a little opening in it, a little hole, and that is all they needed. Sitting in Moscow, these folks in front of computer screens were searching day in and day out for ways to get into the voters' list in Illinois, and they were successful. They were successful in invading the voting list, the official records of our State on the people who were eligible to vote. They could have done some mischievous things. They could have destroyed our election. That they didn't, but it would have been as simple as going through and just changing the addresses, one digit in the address of every registered voter, so what voter would use the ID card or information given to the judge at the election place wouldn't match up in terms of their address with the official record. That meant they would have voted with a provisional ballot, and those ballots would have stacked up with the thousands of people who could have been victimized by the Russians in my State of Illinois.

We said very publicly—we were the first State to say publicly: The Russians have done this. We didn't see any changes in the voter file. We knew they had the capacity and ability to do it, but they didn't. We have known ever since that they have been attacking our electoral process.

Why didn't we hear about it as much in the most recent election in 2018? Well, specifically because we were in the circumstance where we were fighting it. Our own intelligence agencies were fighting it.

So this is a valid issue, an important issue, and it is one that I hope Leader...
SCHUMER made clear to those listening to this debate. Why won’t Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, bring to the floor of the U.S. Senate election security legislation—bipartisan legislation—that will, in the course of passing it, make us safer to other national processes? What is this kind of bromance between the President and Vladimir Putin? I don’t understand.

But now there appears to be another party on the scene. Senator MCCONNELL is joining in this effort: Keep our hands off Russia. Don’t confront Russia. I don’t understand why the Senator from Kentucky is taking that position. He should be pushing forward on a bipartisan basis to protect our election security.

Madam President, now I see my friend and Republican colleague from Utah is here, and I know the purpose of his attendance. I am about to make a statement about TPS status for Venezuelans in the United States. I will prefer to make my request, and allow the Senator from Utah, if he doesn’t want to stay here, to respond, and I will continue.

Last year, I went to Venezuela. It was my first time. I met with President Maduro, and I said to him: If you have the election you plan to have, it will not be credible, and around the world, you will find the United States and many other nations will reject the outcome. You have to open the process. Stop putting your political opponents in jail. Have a real election, a free election. Venezuela needs it, not just from a constitutional viewpoint, but your economy is in shambles, and if you want the world to join you in rebuilding the Venezuelan economy, you have to be the credible leader and you can’t be if you go through with this election as planned.

That was my speech. It didn’t work. He had the election as he planned it. He made sure that his opponents were under house arrest or in jail. He fixed the vote and ended up declaring himself the winner, and no one accepted it. So across the world, you find this resistance to his leadership.

There are some 70,000 people from Venezuela in the United States. They are here on visitor visas, work visas, student visas, and similar capacities. They are now being asked to return to Venezuela in the United States. They have no medicine. They have no medicine.
way it should be. But for those, for example, in my State who are university students, who have their student visas coming to an end—they are asking me: Senator DURBIN, will you allow me to stay in the United States until it is safe for my country?

Is that a reasonable request? If it were Americans in similar plights in places around the world, wouldn’t we say: Give them a break. Give them a chance to stay in a safe place.

I will close. I want to defer to my friend from New Jersey, Senator MENENDEZ, on this issue.

When I went to Venezuela last year, in Caracas, I had a meeting. It was a dinner meeting, and it was an unusual one because it was with six members of the General Assembly who are opponents of President Maduro, who is currently their leader in that country. These opposition leaders opposed him, and their lives were at stake because of it.

We had dinner in a restaurant. It was an unusual dinner. It was upstairs in a back room, and the door was closed so that no one could see us. There were six of them, and they said to me: If you come back next year, Senator, two of us will have been deported, two of us will be in prison; and two of us will have disappeared.

That is what happens to the opposition in Venezuela if you happen to oppose President Maduro. It is that dangerous.

One of those six was a man named Juan Guaido. I met him that night for an unusual dinner. It was upstairs in a back room, and the door was closed so that no one could see us. There were six of them, and they said to me: If you come back next year, Senator, two of us will have been deported, two of us will be in prison; and two of us will have disappeared.

That is what happens to the opposition in Venezuela if you happen to oppose President Maduro. It is that dangerous.

I have met his wife since. They are literally risking their lives for their country. They understand how dangerous it is.

All I asked for today on the floor is for those Venezuelans who wish to stay here in safety until this political scenario plays out, that they be allowed to stay here. That is all I was asking for—temporary protected status. I am sorry that Senator LEE objected. He did note, though, that in some period of time—I hope very soon—he will reconsider that position and give us a chance to provide safety for the Venezuelans who are visiting here in the United States.

Because he is here and has been such a great ally of mine in this effort, I would like to yield the floor to my friend from New Jersey, Senator MENENDEZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, let me thank my colleague from Illinois, who has been a clarion voice in this regard, a strong proponent of human rights and democracy in Venezuela and in other parts of the world, but in this case, in Venezuela; who has traveled there at a time when people could not travel—certainly from the Congress—in an effort to see if there was a pathway forward and to see the plight of the Venezuelan people. I really appreciate his cosponsorship with me on this temporary protected status for Venezuelans. His leadership is critically important to the Democratic whip but also as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee that I hope can take up this legislation.

I will say this: I regret that our colleague from Utah, No. 1, objected, and No. 2, my colleague from New Jersey, Senator YULEY GOMEZ, is the mother of Luis David, a 4-year-old who has a delicate heart condition. In Venezuela, Yuley asked for help from everyone she could, but all she received was a prescription for painkillers. In a closed-door meeting, she was told privately to wait for the inevitable death of her child, a 4-year-old. Just imagine being told to wait for a son or daughter to succumb to a treatable illness. No parent would do that.

After a great personal sacrifice, Yuley made it to the United States and admitted her son into Boston Children’s Hospital. Three years later, David is
thrive, but he requires frequent checkups and treatments that remain unavailable in Venezuela to this day.

Then there is Leila Calderon, who resides in my home State of New Jersey. Her nephew, who once lived with her in Caracas, is a symbol for the armed forces. He was wrongly arrested for plotting to overthrow Maduro. In the absence of evidence, he was released from jail, but on his way home, he received a call warning him that military counterintelligence agents were after him. When he tried to hide, security forces arbitrarily arrested his mother, his girlfriend, and his father-in-law. The following day, he was detained and charged once again, with no evidence. He remains imprisoned today.

Even Leila, who has publicly advocated for his release, has been labeled as a “terrorist” on national television by the regime thug Diosdado Cabello.

Let me share the story of a Venezuelan soldier. Rear Admiral Rafael Acosta Arevalo, was detained on June 21, 2019, by members of the Venezuela military counterintelligence. After being forcibly imprisoned for a week, on June 28 of 2019, Captain Acosta was rolled out in a wheel chair, visibly affected by torture. He died the following day. The kind of torture that took Captain Acosta’s life is one of the many dangers Venezuelans in the United States would need to face if we don’t approve or cosponsor this bill.

The Maduro regime’s unthinkable abuses have created a full-blown refugee crisis in our own hemisphere. These extraordinary, and what we pray will never be reported, circumstances are I am reminded of when I was in Caracas last year. It was 11 p.m. at night after I finished with this dinner with the opposition leaders. As I was headed back to the hotel, I saw long lines of people standing by ATM machines trying to withdraw maximum amount from their savings accounts so they could have enough money to take the bus to work. That is the circumstance. The economy of this country has collapsed.

The Maduro regime’s unthinkable abuses have created a full-blown refugee crisis in our own hemisphere. These extraordinary, and what we pray will never be reported, circumstances are I am reminded of when I was in Caracas last year. It was 11 p.m. at night after I finished with this dinner with the opposition leaders. As I was headed back to the hotel, I saw long lines of people standing by ATM machines trying to withdraw maximum amount from their savings accounts so they could have enough money to take the bus to work. That is the circumstance. The economy of this country has collapsed.

The medical care, which you mentioned, and I found at this children’s hospital and other places, is virtually nonexistent. Diseases, which were once eradicated in Venezuela, are returning. Children are dying from diseases which long ago we believed were gone. Now they are back because there is no vaccine, nothing to treat these children.

When we ask the Trump administration, which has told us they want to get rid of Maduro, to give the Venezuelans a chance at a free election; when we ask them, will you at least show sympathy for the Venezuelans in the United States who don’t want to return, who want temporary protection until this political mess is over—when we ask them will you give them that protection, we get a letter from Mr. Cuccinelli, who is now the head of citizen services, saying: No, we are not going to do that.

How can you have it both ways? How can you say you care for the people of Venezuela, you acknowledge the terrible crisis the President’s desk that ensures that vulnerable Venezuelans in the United States are not sent back into harm’s way—into potential death or imprisonment. Instead, we did nothing.

This is a tragedy in its own right. This is what we could have avoided today. I fear if we don’t approve or cosponsor this bill, we cannot turn our back on the Venezuelan people. Unfortunately, today the Senate has chosen not to act. We could have sent legislation to the President’s desk that ensures that vulnerable Venezuelans in the United States are not sent back into harm’s way—into potential death or imprisonment. Instead, we did nothing.

I am proud that in May, by an overwhelming bipartisan margin, the Senate passed my bill to address illegal and abusive robocalls. My legislation would increase the financial penalties for making illegal robocalls, and it would give law enforcement more tools to go after these scammers who prey on vulnerable populations. The TRACED Act, which is my bill to address illegal robocalls, is one of more than 80 pieces of legislation I have introduced or cosponsored this year. My

people. If they will come join us, perhaps the leadership on the Republican side will have second thoughts and give these people of Venezuela a chance to be protected here until their country is safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, one final comment to my colleague.

The 7,000 who have been killed by Maduro’s secret police is reflective of the fact that those who are here are some of the earliest opponents of Maduro—those who tried to create change but fled. They have a heightened reason why, in fact, going back—in addition to the chaos and in addition to the danger—they are particularly threatened, at the end of the day, because they are the ones who were trying to create change and found a situation in which the threat of their life was at risk so they came to the United States.

Getting protected status—if there was ever a moment in which temporary protected status was envisioned, it is for this situation.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
robocall bill grew out of the work that I did on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which I have served on now for 11 years, including having served four of those years as chairman.

My service on the Commerce Committee has given me an up-close look at the issue of consumer privacy. Last year, as chairman of that committee, I convened hearings into consumer data privacy and the accessing of millions of Facebook users’ personal data by the political intelligence firm Cambridge Analytica. I also led a hearing to discuss the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation and California’s new privacy-related law.

This year, as chair of the Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, I have continued to focus on consumer privacy. I recently convened a hearing to look at the use of persuasive technology on internet platforms like Facebook and YouTube, and to examine how these technologies can be and have been abused. I believe that developing bipartisan consumer privacy legislation needs to be a priority, and it is an issue I will continue to focus on here in Congress.

Another thing on which I have focused on the Commerce Committee is paving the way for 5G technology, which is the next phase of the wireless revolution, and of ensuring that Americans in rural communities have access to the same broadband technology that residents of more urban areas enjoy.

Last year, the President signed my bipartisan MOBILE NOW Act into law, which I introduced to help secure an adequate spectrum for 5G technology. In June, I reintroduced my STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act in order to address the other part of the 5G equation, and that is infrastructure. Among other things, the STREAMLINE deployment act would make it more affordable to bring 5G to rural areas by addressing the cost of small cell deployment.

I am privileged to represent South Dakota’s farmers and ranchers here in the U.S. Senate, and year after year, one of my major priorities has been to make sure that the needs of our Nation’s farmers and ranchers have been addressed. One of my priorities right now is to push for the passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement here in Congress. Farmers and ranchers have been through a few tough years, and one of the things they tell me they need the most is market access for their products around the globe. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will preserve farmers’ access to two of our Nation’s most significant agricultural export markets—Canada and Mexico—and will substantially expand market access for U.S. dairy products in Canada. It will also expand market access for U.S. poultry and egg producers, and it will make it easier for U.S. producers to export wheat to Canada.

Senate Republicans are ready to pass this agreement as soon as the President formally submits it to Congress. We are just waiting for the Democrats in the House, who—despite the significant steps that have been taken to address our Nation’s farmers’ and ranchers’ needs—have not indicated they are ready to take up the agreement. I will continue to urge them to take up this agreement so that our Nation’s farmers and ranchers can experience the benefits. I will also continue to fight for and conclude the other trade agreements the administration is negotiating.

Being a Member of Congress doesn’t just allow you to push for legislation. It also gives you an important platform on which to advocate on your constituents’ behalf with the President and his administration. This year I was able to help persuade the Department of Agriculture to move the hay and grazing date to September 1 of this year for cover crops on prevent plant acres and to offer more flexibility to ranchers in Northern States like South Dakota to sow cover crops without worrying that they will not be able to harvest or graze them before the winter weather sets in.

Both in Congress and with multiple Presidential administrations, I have been advocating for higher blends of ethanol for more than a decade, and I was very pleased this year to know the Trump administration moved to lift the ban on the year-round sale of E15, which is a 15-percent ethanol blended fuel. This is a big win for American consumers, for our growing energy independence, and especially for U.S. corn producers, including those back home in South Dakota. Corn producers are thankful that the President delivered on his commitment to the year-round sales of E15.

Yet it is still a tough environment for agriculture. That is why we need to continue to update the E15 emissions modeling to reflect ethanol’s 40-percent reduction in life cycle greenhouse gasses, which will boost its export potential. Most pressing, the administration needs to curb the issuance of small refinery waivers, which are, in part, forcing ethanol plants to slow down, idle, or shutter across America’s heartland. This is critical to our seeing through the President’s commitment to farm- ers.

Throughout my time in the Senate, I have been proud to advocate for Ellsworth Air Force Base, which is near Rapid City, SD. I have spent years working with the other members of the South Dakota delegation in Ellsworth and with community leaders to build up Ellsworth. Among other things, our efforts have resulted in the expansion of the Powder River Training Complex into the largest training airspace in the continental United States. Un-doubtedly, it is partly thanks to this airspace that Ellsworth was chosen as the first home for the future B-21 bomber, and it will host both training and operational squadrons.

I am very proud of Ellsworth for receiving these exciting new missions, and I look forward to there being more great developments for Ellsworth in the future.

I have worked on a lot of other bills this year to make life better for South Dakotans and for the American people. I have introduced tax reform bills to help small businesses, to update the Tax Code for the 21st century economy, to encourage charitable giving, and to permanently protect family farms from the estate tax. I have also led legislation to strengthen the agricultural economy, to support the Second Amendment, to help States like South Dakota—those that have low unemployment rates—to address workforce shortages, and much more. There is a lot more to come.

This fall, I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue building on the economic progress that we have made, to tackle our Nation’s infrastructure needs, and, among other things, to lower healthcare costs.

I am proud to represent the people of South Dakota here in the U.S. Senate, and I will continue to do everything I can to address South Dakota’s priorities and to expand opportunities for South Dakotans and all Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Maine.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to highlight the bipartisan work that is underway in the Senate to help Americans who struggle with the high cost of prescription drugs. This problem particularly affects our seniors, 90 percent of whom take at least one prescription drug. It is critical that we continue to build on the momentum of this important pocketbook issue that I believe, bridges the partisan divide.

In June 2015, as the chairman of the Senate’s Special Committee on Aging, I have chaired eight hearings on drug pricing, and we have heard so many heartbreaking stories from people who struggle to afford the medication that they need.

I will never forget standing in line at the pharmacy counter in Bangor, ME, where I live, when the couple ahead of me received a prescription drug and the welcomed news that the couple’s copay was going to be $111. The husband turned to his wife and said: “Honey, we simply cannot afford this.” They walked away and left that needed prescription on the drug store counter.

I told the pharmacist I didn’t mean to over hear but that I just happened to be there. I asked him how often this happens, and he gave me the terrible news that it happens every single day.

At a hearing on the skyrocketing price of insulin, we heard compelling stories, like Facebook and YouTube and on the Internet, I have continued to focus on consumer privacy. I recently convened a hearing to look at the use of persuasive technology on internet platforms like Facebook and YouTube, and to examine how these technologies can be and have been abused. I believe that developing bipartisan consumer privacy legislation needs to be a priority, and it is an issue I will continue to focus on here in Congress.

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I am privileged to represent South Dakota’s farmers and ranchers here in the U.S. Senate, and year after year, one of my major priorities has been to make sure that the needs of our Nation’s farmers and ranchers have been addressed. One of my priorities right now is to push for the passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement here in Congress. Farmers and ranchers have been through a few tough years, and one of the things they tell me they need the most is market access for their products around the globe. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will preserve farmers’ access to two of our Nation’s most significant agricultural export markets—Canada and Mexico—and will substantially expand market access for U.S. dairy products in Canada. It will also expand market access for U.S. poultry and egg producers, and it will make it easier for U.S. producers to export wheat to Canada.
son with type 1 diabetes had tripled to more than $900, that he had to resort to paying out-of-pocket for a much lower cost insulin from Canada without his receiving any credit toward his insurance deductible.

At another hearing, we heard from Patty Bernard, from Falmouth, ME, testified that her out-of-pocket costs soared from $10 to $3,800 per month for Enbrel when she transitioned from employer-sponsored insurance to a “Catastrophic” plan, implying she could not afford this expense and had to switch to a different drug that was not self-administered. This switch required her to go to her doctor’s office once a month for a 2½-hour infusion, and it did not work nearly as well for her.

At another hearing, we heard from Pam Holt, who was diagnosed with multiple melanomas. Ms. Holt is among the 1 million Medicare beneficiaries who have annual out-of-pocket prescription drug costs that exceed $5,000, which places her in the catastrophic part of Medicare Part D. Seniors still pay 5 percent of a drug’s cost above that threshold, and Ms. Holt had to finance her home to be able to afford her treatment. Her prescription medication is staggering at more than $250,000 per year, and this is not an optional cost. These are costs that are necessary to preserve the lives and well-beings of, in particular, our seniors.

These stories of Americans like Paul, Patty, Pam, and millions of others who find it extremely difficult to afford the exorbitant costs of the medications they need in order to maintain their health or the health of their loved ones have motivated Congress to act on a bipartisan bill that I coauthored with Patty, Pam, and millions of others who find it extremely difficult to afford the copays or the deductibles on the list price.

Due to the provisions in the bill to spur competition, the CBO—the Congressional Budget Office—estimates that “the entry of certain generic or biosimilar products could be accelerated by two to three years.” This would make a tremendous difference and would reduce consumer as well as Federal and private insurance spending for prescription drugs.

The point I want to make is that this is just allowing the market to operate as it should, with competition, transparency, and an end to the obstacles and the gaming of the system that prevent lower priced pharmaceuticals.

In addition, the Lower Healthcare Costs Act contains several important provisions to shed light on what is currently a complex and opaque system. In fact, I cannot think of any other product we buy where the price is so opaque and lacking in transparency and in which there are such variations in what the cost may be from plan to plan, from pharmacy to pharmacy, from manufacturer to manufacturer, and that is due to a very complex system that I am going to refer to.

At the Aging Committee’s hearing on the high list prices, the American Diabetes Association spoke about the lack of transparency when you trace insulin from the manufacturer to the pharmacy counter. Keep in mind that insulin was first isolated nearly a century ago, in 1921 in Canada, and the discoverers provided it for only a dollar because they wanted to make it widely available.

The point I want to make is that this is just allowing the market to operate as it should, with competition, transparency, and an end to the obstacles and the gaming of the system that prevent lower priced pharmaceuticals.
that the needed prescription drugs. Well, I met with a group of community pharmacists who told me how the system worked, and they told me that there were actually gag clauses in their contracts where they were prohibited from sharing with the consumer whether it was cheaper to buy out-of-pocket rather than through insurance.

Well, I am pleased to say, in working with former Senator Claire McCaskill and Debbie Stabenow and others, we were able to get gag clause prohibitions enacted into law last year. According to one study, banning these gag clauses could help Americans save money in nearly one out of four prescription transactions. So this is significant legislation.

I talked recently to a pharmacist in Maine who said what a relief it was to her to now be able to volunteer to her patients that there may be a less expensive way for the patient to purchase needed prescription drugs.

One of four—nearly one out of four—prescription transactions should benefit from the laws that we wrote last year.

Another bill that I authored in 2017 will promote more competition and lower cost but equally effective generic drugs, and it is already showing promise. To date, the FDA has granted nearly 200 application requests under the new, expedited pathway that my laws provide, and 10 have been approved. That is a much faster pace than in the past.

As cochair of both the Senate Diabetest Caucus and the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease, I know all too well from listening to families in Maine and across the country that the path toward finding new discoveries and treatments is often long and difficult and that success can be elusive, but we must continue our efforts. When pharmaceutical companies start twisting around the incentives that were designed to encourage innovation and, instead, distorting them into obstacles to competition, Congress simply must act, and that is exactly what we are doing.

I want to applaud the work of the HELP Committee. All of us contributed to the bill, and we were ably led by Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY. I also want to recognize the hard work of Senator GRAHAM and Senator PEYTON on the Judiciary Committee for the bipartisan package of reforms they produced last month.

Finally, I want to salute the Finance Committee chairman, CHUCK GRASSLEY, and the ranking member, RON Wyden, for taking bipartisan actions just last week in passing the Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act. That has many important provisions in it that will require more disclosure. It includes a bill that Senator CASEY and I have cosponsored, as well as many other important provisions, including putting a medical inflation cap on certain pharmaceuticals.

I know how much the Presiding Officer personally cares about this issue, and he has contributed greatly to this work as well. My hope is that we can build upon this momentum, that we can seize the moment when three different committees of the Senate have all been successful in reporting to the full Senate three bipartisan packages.

Our HELP Committee bill was reported by a vote of 20 to 3. That is remarkable consensus.

Let us bring all of these bills to the Senate floor this fall—or certainly by the end of the year—so that we can deliver real results to the American people by lowering the price of prescription drugs.

We would then be very proud of listening to our constituents and addressing a problem that affects millions of Americans. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON MICHAEL T. LIBURDI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Liburdi nomination?

Mr. GARDNER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 37, as follows:

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EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next 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.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Welte nomination?

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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 Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 22, as follows:

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The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 5, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 238 Ex.)

**YEAS—85**

Alexander, Alexander, Baldwin, Baldwyn
Barrasso, Barasso, Blackburn, Blackburn
Blunt, Blunt, Boxman, Boxman
Braun, Braun, Burr, Burr
Cassidy, Cassidy, Cantwell, Cantwell
capitol, capitol, cardin, Cardin
Carper, Carper, Casey, Casey
Collins, Collins, Coons, Coons
cornyn, Cornyn, cortez masto, Cortez Masto
Cotton, Cotton, cruz, cruz
daines, daines, duckworth, Duckworth
durbin, durbin, esi, Esi
ernst, Ernst, feinstein, Feinstein
Fischer, Fischer, gardner, Gardner
gillibrand, gillibrand

**NAYS—5**

Blumenthal, Blumenthal, Brown, Brown
Murray, Murray, Murray, Murray
Merkley, Merkley, Murray, Murray
van Hollen, van Hollen, van Hollen, van Hollen

**NOT VOTING—10**

Bennet, Bennet, Booker, Booker
Cassidy, Cassidy, gillibrand, gillibrand

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 5.

The motion is agreed to.

**RECESS**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:53 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITTO).

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, I rise today to give my maiden speech as the 14th Senator to represent our great State of Arizona.

It is an honor to be serving Arizona in the United States Senate and humbling to be appointed to serve in the seat held by Senator John McCain. Like most of my life, I didn't take the traditional path, but I'm blessed to have been given the opportunity to make a difference for others and stand in this historic Chamber today.

I love Arizona—the Grand Canyon State—its people, and our spirit. Like many Arizonans, I wasn't born there, so this is a love of choice. Also like many Arizonans, I first came to the State on a military assignment in the summer of 1980 to attend pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, now home to a thriving industrial park called Mesa Gateway.

I fell in love with Arizona right away and was fortunate to have the majestic view from the sky as a pilot. What a privilege to live in a land of adventure that I had only read about as a kid, home to one of the seven natural wonders of the world in the Grand Canyon and our diverse landscapes, mountains, canyons, lakes, rivers, sunsets, and the powerful desert lightning.

After an assignment away, I came back to Arizona to fly the A–10 Warthog at Davis Monthan Air Force Base. I can tell you, from experience, there is nothing quite like finishing a demanding training mission on the Barry Goldwater Air Force Range and having a near heaven view of Arizona's beautiful red sunsets.

It isn't only our climate and beautiful landscapes that make Arizona a great place to live and work. We Arizonans are known for our fierce independence, resilience, heartiness, hard work, faith, and diversity. It is this legacy of service and patriotism that transcends generations.

This is the best comes last, and that couldn't be truer when it comes to Arizona. We were the last in the continental United States to become a State in 1912 and have a history of attracting adventurous hard-working people searching to live out their dreams.

Our State motto is “Ditat Deus,” or “God enriches,” highlighting the importance of faith in God in our past and our future.

The original foundation of our economy is known as the five Cs: copper, cattle, cotton, citrus, and climate. Today, we still have Moreno mine, the largest copper producer in North America, which I recently visited.

Arizona has made history in our own unique way. We are known around the world for the famous town Tombstone and the legendary OK Corral. We gave women the right to vote 8 years before the whole Nation and are the proud home to Sandra Day O’Connor, the first woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court.

Arizona has always proudly hosted and supported our troops and remains crucial for our defense. Our vast open land, beautiful weather, and airspace makes our State a national security treasure, and Arizonans have always answered the call to serve in uniform and support our vets.

Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized Tribes and has the largest percentage of Tribal geography in any State. The Old Oraibi Hopi Village is
the oldest continuously inhabited settle-
tlement in the country, started around 1,000 AD. Piestewa Peak is named after Specialist Lori Ann Piestewa, the first Native-American woman to die in com-
batt while on foreign soil while serving in the U.S. military in Arizona.

Arizona has a history of punching
above our weight with elected leaders.
Carl Hayden was our first Congress-
man, who served 56 years and
secured funding for the Central Ar-
izona Project to support our water needs. He was the first Latinate
Governor of Arizona and served as U.S. Ambas-
dador to multiple countries. We
are home to two Senate heavyweights:
Barry Goldwater, who served five
terms, and John McCain, who served
six terms in this Chamber.

I approach this opportunity to serve in
the Senate the same way I ap-
proached my 26 years in the Air Force
as a fighter pilot and my 4 years in the
House. I lost my father at the age of 12, so
my father was the first Latinx
Governor of Arizona and served as U.S. Ambas-
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That is why I am going to continue to fight to protect the A-10 Warthog at Davis Monthan and fight for the F-35 at Luke Air Force Base, plus other amazing military installations that we have and their unique missions in Arizona. If it is taking the place of a 300-migrant legally crossed the border due to poor infrastructure and lack of resources for agents, or like Douglas and Nogales, where outdated facilities leave agents overwhelmed with volume and leave our country vulnerable to illegal trafficking of drugs or people.

Arizona wants us to solve the border crisis and stop playing political games with it. It is a crisis all too real for cities like Yuma, where I saw firsthand the place where over 300 migrants legally crossed the border due to poor infrastructure and lack of resources for agents, or like Douglas and Nogales, where outdated facilities leave agents overwhelmed with volume and leave our country vulnerable to illegal trafficking of drugs or people.

Arizona wants us to work together to bring down the out-of-pocket costs of healthcare and allow patients, families, doctors—not the government or insurance companies—to make healthcare choices for them. We can do this by protecting preexisting conditions and supporting initiatives like association health plans, which allow groups like the Southern Arizona Chamber of Commerce Association to partner small businesses together to access health insurance plans that right now only big companies can.

Lives will be saved with the medical innovation that is happening in my State. Arizona is home to many institutions that are leading the way to find new treatments and cures for deadly diseases.

When I visited the Ivy Brain Tumor Center, I was inspired by the story of Catherine Ivy, whose husband Ben passed away from glioblastoma, the same deadly cancer that took the life of Senator McCain. Instead of being consumed with her grief, Catherine searched all over the world for the best place to invest and partner for groundbreaking innovation to conquer this disease.

She found it at the Barrow Neurological Institute right there in our own State of Arizona. Dr. Nader Sanai and his team are doing amazing work and leading in cutting-edge research and clinical trials. We need more investments and less barriers for initiatives like this.

Arizona wants us to continue to tackle the opioid epidemic that is disproportionately impacting our rural communities. During my 15-county tour, I met with a person in Safford, who shared the senseless death of his son Josiah whom his family lost to an opioid addiction. His life and all its potential tragically ended with a fentanyl-laced heroin dose. We mourn for his family and pledge to end this crisis.

Arizona wants us to smartly invest in infrastructure for the long haul, not in a one-size-fits-all approach. What they need in New Jersey is not necessarily what we need in Arizona. We need flexibility and partnerships with States. Cities in both the West and East Valley of Maricopa County have been tasked with the daunting feat of keeping up with the fastest population growth in the country but without the resources to modernize their streets and freeways. We need bipartisan solutions to modernize our infrastructure, including water infrastructure and rural broadband.

Arizonaans want us to ensure that our freedoms and opportunities are preserved for their children and their grandchildren. They want us to ensure that seniors can have retirement security after working their whole lives. We can solve some of these problems in the days ahead if we choose to—if we choose to work together and do something bigger for those we all serve.

At this moment in history, as John Boyd said, we are at a fork in the road, and we have a choice: Be someone or do something. I choose to act for those I serve. I know you do too. So let’s get to work for the Nation.

As Senator McCain once said: “Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.”

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON JAMES WESLEY HENDRIX NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BLACKBURN). Are there any Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New York (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from South Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the Senate has the authority 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?


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the Senate has the authority 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?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET),
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 Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 36, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 240 Ex.]

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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 36. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, recently, I joined the Senate delegation to visit the southern border and view firsthand the migration and humanitarian crisis in the United States.

We visited the Donna Holding Facility, the Catholic Charities Respite Center, the McAllen Border Patrol Station, and the Ursula Centralized Processing Center. Earlier this week, I held a roundtable discussion on my trip at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Highlandtown. The group was organized by the Latino Providers Network in Baltimore, which included representatives from the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Catholic Relief Services, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and other nonprofits in the community that do work in Baltimore and at our border.

I was welcomed by the Catholic Charities Respite Center run by Sister Norma Pimentel. The center provides a warm meal, a shower, a change into clean clothes, medicine, and other desperately needed supplies. These migrants are very lucky to make it there. While they are there, they have to prove to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement that they are not a threat. The process was for them very disturbing. I saw many families huddled together in overcrowded conditions. I saw children behind fencing and, basically, in cages. Some children wore clothing that was soiled and had not been changed since they arrived in the United States. Children and families were supposed to be there in temporary holding only for a day or two, but we heard stories that families are being held for up to 10 to 14 days and, in some cases, even longer.

Why are migrants leaving their homes in the first place? These individuals are desperate. They are desperate because they are fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries. These families are often given a terrible choice to have their young son or daughter join a criminal gang or suffer the consequences as a family. That means being attacked, kidnapped, and even murdered. Even though it is a dangerous journey, these families feel they have no choice.

Let me remind my colleagues that these individuals are lawfully seeking asylum at our border and should not be treated as criminals. We need to respect their human rights, their rights under international law, and their rights under U.S. law.

These migrants are not trying to do harm to the United States. Indeed, government officials told us that the vast majority do not present any safety risk, such as being on a watch list for terrorist or criminal behavior, and that most migrants have not tried previously to enter the country illegally.

I am greatly concerned about the new metering system used by Customs and Border Protection for those seeking asylum and refuge in our country as part of the expansion of the Remain in Mexico program. Normally, a migrant presenting themselves to a Customs or Border Patrol agent at the point of entry and ask to seek asylum. But under the Trump administration’s new metering policy, Border Patrol agents will stop migrants at the border, sometimes halfway across the bridge as they approach a legal border point of entry. Border Patrol will then give the migrant a number, and they will have to then wait for their number to be called before they can formally present themselves for admission at a legal port of entry.

How long is the wait for your number to be called? In some cases, it is weeks or even months. In the meantime, migrants are told to wait in a border town and tent city set up on the other side of the border. One of most dangerous towns in all of Mexico is Reynosa, just across the border from McAllen Border Patrol Station. Migrants staying in the tents utilize and commit violence, extortion, human trafficking, and even death at the hands of gangs that operate with impunity in the city, which are effectively not controlled by Mexican law enforcement authorities.

In fact, the town is so dangerous that many migrants and American law enforcement personnel are forbidden by our government from visiting there or trying to meet with migrants on the Mexican side of the border. This is outrageous, and America can do better to live up to our values.

Migrants who are desperately fleeing violence and prosecution at home come to the United States in search of safety for themselves and their families. Now they are told they must wait indefinitely on the Mexican side of the border and essentially in a town where they are at the mercy of criminals, gangs, and traffickers who prey on the most vulnerable.

What happens next? Many of these migrants decide they have no choice but to cross the border illegally so that they can escape the camps in Reynosa. When migrants try to cross the border illegally, they face new dangers of dehydration, drowning, and even death.

Under the Trump administration, the United States is undermining our asylum policy and America’s leadership in the world in welcoming refugees and those fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries. Indeed, the Trump administration is deliberately trying to hurt migration and legitimate asylum seekers and refugees by making it more difficult to seek asylum and deter refugees from coming to the United States in the first place. Proposed asylum law changes, such as an expansion of the Remain in Mexico and metering policies, will make it more difficult for asylum seekers to apply if they have traveled through multiple countries as they make their way to the United States.

I believe asylum law should be changed to make it easier for migrants to apply in their home country, if safe, and expeditiously get an asylum determination from the U.S. Embassy so that they do not have to make the dangerous journey to the United States and try to cross our border with the uncertainty of what awaits them once they reach the U.S. border.

I am concerned, as well, that migrants who do not ultimately make it through the process of applying for asylum may not receive proper notice of their hearings before an asylum judge to make their case. These are people who are released in our country but have to show up for a hearing. The notices may be given out in English, but many migrants do not necessarily understand the language. The address may be incorrect or outdated in terms of where the migrant is heading in the United States to await their
Mr. TESTER. Madam President, as I travel across Montana, I hear from folks who work tirelessly every day to make ends meet. Many work long hours for too low wages, and they face ever-rising costs in housing and healthcare and other basic necessities, but folks in Montana are resilient, they are resourceful, they know how to live within their means, and they know how important it is to make the numbers add up at the end of the month.

I rise because, as usual, Washington, DC, could learn a lot from Montana. This week, we will vote on a bill that swipes Washington’s credit card to the tune of about $250 billion over the next 2 years—dollars that will come out of the pockets of our kids and our grandkids. Now, this $250 billion comes on top of the $1 trillion the United States will add to the national deficit this year because of the $2.2 trillion that was added in 2018, and it is going to continue on until we get our budget in line.

Unfortunately, this sort of reckless spending by both parties has shown a disregard for its impact on the national debt, and it is now the norm in Washington, DC.

Folks on both sides of the aisle are calling for this agreement, and they are calling it a compromise, but in reality, nothing will compromise our children and our grandchildren’s future.

Montanans expect me to hold Washington, DC, accountable and fight back against irresponsible spending and poor tax policy. This falls on the irresponsible spending side.

The bipartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget projects that this administration’s policies will add $4 trillion to the debt over the next 10 years. I am here to tell you that is too conservative a figure.

At this point in time, we are going to be adding about $1.2 trillion to the debt every year if things don’t change. Our debt is skyrocketing, and guess what. We are not fixing the healthcare problems that need to be fixed; we are not fixing the high cost of education; we are not investing in our infrastructure, but our debt continues to skyrocket because of irresponsible spending and, quite frankly, a Republican tax given away to the wealthy at the expense of our kids and our grandkids.

I have listened to colleagues on both sides of the aisle during my tenure here
who warned of debt and how our national debt could damage our economy and our national security.

Two years ago, my Republican colleagues passed a partisan tax giveaway, drafted behind closed doors, with no—with no—public input from Montanans or anyone else in this country. They promised that this tax giveaway would pay for itself, but it did not. Let me say that one more time. They promised the tax giveaway would pay for itself, but guess what. Just like the previous ones. It didn't.

Instead, it tacked about $2 trillion onto our national debt, and it is another example of why we can't get our books in order—because we have a shortsighted fiscal approach that makes us the first generation to inherit from our parents and borrow from our kids.

My colleagues made campaign promises to tackle this debt. As a Congressman—and a Congressman—Mick Mulvaney, who happens to be the President's Chief of Staff, pledged to eliminate it, but this White House has done just the opposite.

As we stand here today, the debt has exploded to more than $22 trillion, and it could get even higher every day, despite the country being in the middle of the longest period of economic expansion in our history.

Now, I am going to tell you it is one thing to run a deficit when you are in a recession and it happens to be very high. But it is inexcusable, the President's fiscal irresponsibility, when you are in the longest period of economic expansion in this country's history, we should be paying down that debt, and we are not. We are adding to it as if we were in a recession.

Running trillion-dollar deficits during times of growth like this one, and everybody in this body knows it, puts the economy on a sugar high. It feels good now, but we all know it is not sustainable. A long-term solution is inevitable.

The same folks who voted to pile $2 trillion onto the deficit now argue—some of them—that we cannot find the money to provide our veterans with the healthcare they have earned. They say we need deep cuts—into Medicaid and Social Security and other programs that many folks have paid into for their entire life, but yet we are going to cut them.

I have known, and we all know, that budgeting is about priorities, and it is clear that Congress's priorities are out of whack.

You wouldn't know it from watching C-SPAN, but it is possible to be fiscally conservative without cutting working folks off at the knees. I know this because, as president of the Montana Senate, I negotiated and passed a balanced budget because the State constitution requires it. Since coming to the U.S. Senate, I have led a push to add a constitutional amendment requiring that Congress pass a balanced budget.

Now, look, we all know it can't be done overnight, but in a measured approach, with bipartisan cooperation, we can at least get headed in the right direction. There is no reason why we cannot make smart investments in working families, our kids' education, 21st century infrastructure, and the other needs across this country without cutting essential services. Folks in the Treasure State know that, and Washington, DC, needs to know that too. It is time for Congress to follow Montana's lead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for as much time as I may require.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I often recommend to Tennesseans that they look at the U.S. Congress as if it were a split-screen television set. Here is the one story, the one that is very clear. During the last month, on one side of the screen you saw the usual Washington, DC, turmoil—Trump versus the squad, Mueller testifying, impeachment votes, battle over the border, Presidential candidates posturing, and of course the daily tweets.

On the other side of the screen was the President and congressional leaders agreeing to a 2-year budget that will strengthen our military, help our veterans, fund research for our National Laboratories, support our national parks, and save taxpayers a boatload of money by providing stability in funding.

I might add that this part of the budget—31 percent of the budget—is not the part of the budget that is creating the budget deficit. This part of the budget that we will be voting on tomorrow has gone up at about the rate of inflation for the last 10 years, and is projected by the Congressional Budget Office to go up at about the rate of inflation for the next 10 years.

It is the entitlement part of the budget that is the problem, which is why I am voting for what the President and the congressional leaders have recommended, but then also on that side of the screen, away from the Washington, DC, turmoil, there was another story, which is the story I want to talk about today.

During that last month, three Senate committees, by my count, made more than 80 bipartisan proposals, sponsored by at least 75 U.S. Senators of both political parties, to reduce the cost of healthcare that Americans pay for out of their own pockets.

On June 26, after 17 hearings, 6 months of work, recommendations from 400 experts, our Health Committee, which I chair and of which Senator PATTY MURRAY, the Democrat from Washington State, is the ranking member, voted 20 to 3 to recommend to the full Senate 55 proposals from 65 Senators that would end surprise medical billing, increase transparency, so you can know the cost of your medical care—you can't lower your healthcare costs if you don't know your healthcare actually costs—and increase competition to reduce the cost of prescription drugs.

The next day after our Health Committee reported that legislation, the Judiciary Committee, headed by Senator GRAHAM and Senator FEINSTEIN, reported out 4 proposals from 19 Senators that would reduce prescription drug prices by banning anticompetitive behaviors by drug manufacturers and helping the Federal Trade Commission to block those who game the citizen petition process to delay generic drugs and biosimilars.

Then, last Thursday, the Finance Committee—this one headed by Senator GRASSLEY and Senator WYDEN—by a vote of 19 to 9, reported more than two dozen additional bipartisan proposals also aimed at reducing the cost of prescription drugs.

That is not all. The House Energy and Commerce Committee has passed its own solution to surprise billing.

Last Thursday, Senator MURRAY's staff and I met with Representatives FRANK PALLONE and GREG WALDEN, the leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The four of us agreed to work together to lower healthcare costs.

All of this work is consistent with what Secretary Azar and the President have been saying and doing to lower prescription drug costs and increase transparency.

For example, last week, after the Finance Committee released its legislation, the White House said it "is encouraged by the bipartisan work of Chairman GRASSLEY and Senator WYDEN to craft a comprehensive package to lower outrageously high drug prices, and today we are engaging with senators to help build support." That is from the White House.

Here is why this amount of activity is, in so many ways, such a good sign for the American people. In our committee, what we have seen before with the Affordable Care Act is that the promise that affects the American people.

In other words, I believe legislation to end surprise medical billing, increase transparency, and lower prescription drug costs is looking like a train that will get to the station when Congress reconvenes in September, and well it should.

The cost of healthcare is Americans' No. 1 financial concern, according to
Gallup, and at one hearing before our Health Committee, experts from the National Academy of Medicine testified that up to half of what our country spends on healthcare is unnecessary.

That is such a startling fact that I sat down then with Senator Murray and with Senators Grassley and Wyden and with Senators Graham and Feinstein, and I said to the leaders of those committees: Surely, if the experts say that half of what we are spending on healthcare is unnecessary, Democrats and Republicans can find some things we can agree on that reduce the cost of what we pay for healthcare out of our own pocket, and we have.

The work of the three committees, more than 80 proposals from 75 Senators, is the result of that work over the last 6 months.

Let me say a word about perhaps the most visible proposal in the Health Committee—a post-surgery follow-up visit. Surprise billing is one of the most urgent problems that the House, the Senate, and the President are trying to fix.

After about 20 percent of all emergency room visits, patients were rushed to the hospital. After months later to receive an unexpected bill. It could range from $300 to $3,000 to $30,000. This happens because patients see a doctor they didn’t choose, either because of emergency surgery or because they are in network or out of network because of an out-of-network doctor, not chosen by the patient, treats them at an in-network hospital.

In his State of the Union Address and again at a White House event in May, President called for an end to surprise billing. At the event, he gave me a copy of this medical bill, which we have enlarged on this chart. It was a bill sent to Liz Moreno, a Texas college student who had back surgery, and during the surgery, her finger was from an out-of-network facility, and so she got an unexpected bill for $17,850 for a urine test. That is about the price of a new Nissan Sentra. The bill was sky high because the lab that ran the test—a lab that chose—was considered out of network by her insurer.

Take Drew Calver, a Texan who told the President his story about getting $10,000 in bills—the emergency room he was rushed to during his heart attack was out of network and so were the doctors who treated him.

That day, the President said: “For too long, surprise billings... have left some patients with thousands of dollars and unjustified charges... So this must end.”

The Lower Health Care Costs Act the Senate Health Committee passed last month by a vote of 20 to 3 would have protected Liz and Drew from receiving those bills. Here is how it works: Insurance companies would pay out-of-network doctors a local, market-driven benchmark rate, which would be the same local, market-based rate that insurers negotiated with doctors who agreed to be in network. Obviously, this would have saved Liz and Drew because they wouldn’t have gotten a surprise medical bill. The Congressional Budget Office says that by ending surprise medical billing, this approach would generally lower health insurance premiums. CBO also estimates that the approach would save taxpayers $25 billion over the next 10 years.

Based on data from Kaiser, only about 5 percent of doctors at 10 percent of hospitals send most of these surprise medical bills. So our solution primarily affects those doctors whom patients had little control over, choosing—anesthesiologists, radiologists, pathologists, emergency room doctors, and neonatologists. It does not affect doctors whom a patient can choose, such as cardiologists or primary care doctors or pediatricians. In fact, the American Academy of Family Physicians, representing primary care doctors, supports our Lower Health Care Costs Act that ends surprise medical billing.

Over the 17 hearings our Health Committee conducted in developing our legislation, we heard many stories about surprise billing. Here are a few.

Todd, a Knoxville father who wrote me, was rushed to a hospital with a cardiac arrest. Todd was surprised when a few months later he received a bill for $1,800—because, even though the emergency room was in network, the doctor who treated his son was not.

Ahead of the birth of their first child, Danny and his wife Linda, from Georgia, chose an in-network doctor and hospital. Of course, they thought their insurance would cover their bills. When Luke was born 3 weeks premature, he had to spend 11 days at the in-network hospital’s neonatal care center. In the weeks after Luke went home, $4,279 in bills were sent to Danny and Linda because the neonatal care center, located in their in-network hospital, was out of network.

Carrie Wallinger, from Phoenix, AZ, received a $9,000 surprise medical bill after going to an in-network emergency room after a bicycle accident. Todd was surprised when a few months later he received a bill for $1,800—because, even though the emergency room was in network, the doctor who treated his son was not.

A South Carolina woman who had to have an emergency C-section received a $15,000 bill from an out-of-network anesthesiologist. Usually when you are being wheeled into an emergency room for an emergency operation you are not thinking about choosing a doctor, and you are not interviewing them about whether they are in network or out of network. In Texas, after an ATV crashed his arm, Dr. Naveed Khan, a radiologist, needed emergency medical care. The cost of a 108-mile trip in an out-of-network helicopter cost $44,631.

Nicole Briggs, from Colorado, had emergency surgery to remove her appendix at an in-network hospital. She owed $4,727 because the surgeon was out of network.

In Mississippi, Stacy White took her daughter’s x-ray was out of network even though he took his daughter to an in-network hospital.

There are many more stories I could tell, but the bottom line is, in each case, this happened because the patient almost always had little choice. If you don’t have choice, then you really don’t have control over where you go and what you pay. This is a market failure.

One reason for the uptick in surprise bills is that this market failure is now being exploited by private equity firms. Oftentimes, hospitals contract with a company to staff their emergency rooms and hospitals. These companies will handle billing, manage schedules, and hire doctors to staff the hospital emergency room.

Here is some research done by Yale economist Zack Cooper. He found that two of the leading staffing companies—both backed by private equity firms—significantly increase the rate of out-of-network billing in a hospital once the staffing companies are hired.

In the case of one of the physician staffing companies that Cooper studied, a large insurer’s data showed that the cases of surprise billing increased by 100 percent at six different hospitals when the physician staffing firm took over those hospitals’ emergency rooms.

In a New York Times article, Cooper described the 100-percent jump in surprise bills once these private equity-backed staffing companies by saying it was “almost... like a light switch was being flipped on.”

In Axios, Cooper said: “If you’re willing to engage in some fairly unsavory billing practices, (these services) could be quite lucrative... That’s just discouraging, and it makes people want to go to single payer.” These surprise bill abuses make Americans want to go to single payer.

Our goal is to protect patients, not private equity firms and companies that take advantage of patients.

Surprise medical bills are one of the most visible problems for the 180 million Americans who get their health insurance through their job. Growing numbers of patients are receiving surprise medical bills that could bankrupt their families. It is time for Congress to act. If Congress can’t fix such an obvious market failure in healthcare, pressure will only grow for a radical Federal takeover of healthcare that will take away private insurance from the 180 million Americans who get insurance on the job and
leave patients with less choice, fewer doctors, and worse healthcare.

Avik Roy wrote in Forbes that “if we do nothing [to address surprise medical bills], the problem will get far worse. If we do something that is too incrementally small, it will shipwreck the industry and then be forced to revisit the problem in a few years. Americans deserve market-based alternatives to single-payer health care. Without reform of exploitive hospital prices, we’ll never get to that.”

Americans want to be mindful consumers of healthcare. When Todd, the Knoxville father, wrote me, he said: “If I’m expected to be a conscientious consumer of my own health care needs, I need a little more help.” In other words, he needs for Congress to end surprise medical bills.

It is unacceptable to say to patients that, even by paying their premiums every month, even by researching and choosing in-network hospitals and doctors, that the hook for thousands of unexpected dollars because of a surprise bill over which they had no control.

At least 75 Senators and the President have stated their intent to end surprise billing and to reduce what Americans pay out of pocket for their healthcare. When Congress reconvenes in September, I would encourage all of my colleagues to support these efforts to reduce costs.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am here on the Senate floor today with my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from the State of Maryland, Mr. Cardin, and I think we both agree that we would rather not be here today to talk about this subject. But I feel compelled to speak not only to the Senate floor today because, in my view, we have a duty to speak out when the President of the United States of America engages in conduct that brings dishonor and disgrace to the Office of the Presidency. That is what we witnessed, once again, over the weekend when President Trump unleashed a torrent of personal, nasty, and racist attacks on Congressman Elijah Cummings and the city of Baltimore, and President Trump has continued his poisonous barrage for days.

Congressman Cummings can defend himself. He grew up having to confront racist bullies. In the face of these attacks, he has shown great strength and great integrity—the same strength and integrity he has brought to his efforts to fight for his dear city of Baltimore, his entire congressional district, and his constituents over many years.

Baltimore is a great American city with great people, great spirit, and great heart. Of course, Baltimore faces many challenges. It is facing those challenges with determination, with unity, and with grit. The President’s attacks on this great American city have only served to rally the people of Baltimore, the people of Maryland, and, in fact, the people of the United States of America to support the city and the people of Baltimore.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an op-ed that appeared in the Baltimore Sun today entitled “Baltimore leaders: ‘Proud not only to be in Baltimore, but of Baltimore.’”

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, July 30, 2019]

BALTIMORE LEADERS: ‘PROUD NOT ONLY TO BE IN BALTIMORE, BUT OF BALTIMORE’

(By Ronald J. Daniels and Kevin Plank)

We are proud and privileged to call Baltimore home. Baltimore is a city of creativity, optimism, and determination. Home to leading public and private research universities, world-class medical institutions, and a diverse business community, Baltimore is a city where both artists and start-ups thrive. From creating one of the nation’s first racially integrated systems of public education in the 1800s, to producing today’s modern medical and technological breakthroughs, our city has a proud legacy of leadership in improving lives and setting a national example for a stronger tomorrow. It’s no wonder we are often named as a place where millennials are moving and staying. This is a city where people not only want to live, but also to thrive.

That is why we, as leaders of 10 of Baltimore’s anchor institutions, reject the recent unfair and ungenerous characterizations of our city. Like so many cities across America, Baltimore is a place of paradox, at once vibrant and full of promise, yet also burdened by the weight of generations of racial and economic inequities, deindustrialization, and disinvestment. Like other cities of our size and history, we face urgent challenges with crime, housing equity and our education system. But like all Americans, Baltimoreans deserve respect, support and steadfast partnership from elected officials at every level.

Baltimore is proud and will not be defined by our challenges. What defines us is that we continually meet those challenges with resilience and persistence, that we invest in innovation for Baltimore and for the nation, and that we harness the talent of so many exceptional individuals to create opportunity not for the few, but for the many.

Baltimore’s remarkable people include icons past and present like Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall; the longest serving woman in Congress, Sen. Barbara Mikulski; and Rep. Elijah Cummings, outspoken advocate for all his constituents, from west Baltimore to Catonsville and beyond. These leaders are known for their deep commitment to our city and communities, but for their stature and public service on the national stage.

We see the resilience of Baltimore because we are fortunate to work, serve and live here, alongside our colleagues, employees, students and neighbors. Such promise is provided by our shared commitment to our city’s growth and the success of its residents. Baltimore fosters talent in its strong academic institutions and has seen rising venture capital in its businesses—a testament to the dynamism and innovative spirit of our businesses large and small. Our leading businesses and non-profits, calling upon our vibrant faith community, launched BLocal, a targeted economic investment and community development plan that over three years has invested more than $280 million and hired more than 1,700 Baltimore residents in underserved neighborhoods. BLocal expresses to the fullest the deep and long-term investment of the city’s anchor institutions.

We never move forward as a community—or indeed, a nation—by denigrating each other. Does it serve any of us to demean a vibrant city and its citizens who exemplify those most American of qualities: can-do optimism, grit and creativity.

Justice Thurgood Marshall wisely counseled that “In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.” And as this city has shown, time and again, when we work together, we can do great things. For this reason, we are proud not only to be in Baltimore, but of Baltimore.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an editorial from the Baltimore Sun, the Casey Foundation; Morgan State University, a great HBCU; Eddie Brown, one of our great civic leaders; and many other leaders of Baltimore who have come together to stand up with pride for the city of Baltimore.

I would like to read to the Senate what they say in the first paragraph:

We are proud and privileged to call Baltimore home. Baltimore is a city of creativity, optimism, and determination. Home to leading public and private research universities, world-class medical institutions, and a diverse business community, Baltimore is a city where both artists and start-ups thrive. From creating one of the nation’s first racially integrated library systems to producing today’s modern medical and technological breakthroughs, our city has a proud legacy of leadership in improving lives and setting a national example for a stronger tomorrow.

I want to pay particular attention to these next sentences:

It’s no wonder we are often named as a place where millennials are moving and staying. This is a city where people not only want to live, but love to live.

If you come to Baltimore today, you will, in fact, find lots of young people from other parts of the country coming to settle, work, and raise their families in this great American city. The President may say that nobody wants to live in Baltimore, but the facts show a very different story about young people—young people who understand that they have a great future in Baltimore and are moving to that great city.

Of course, it is true that Baltimore faces a series of problems. In Baltimore we have had a legacy of racial discrimination and segregation.

I would like to read from yesterday’s editorial in the Baltimore Sun:

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an editorial from the Baltimore Sun, dated July 29, 2019.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:
CUMMINGS DIDN’T CAUSE BALTIMORE’S WOES; PROBLEMS AND GETTING TO WORK,'' KILLED THE POLITICIANS AREN’T "FOCUSED ON SOLVING THE PROBLEMS, BIG ONES, AND WE DON’T SHY AWAY FROM THEM, NOR DO WE GIVE ANY POLITICIANS A PASS FOR FAILING TO DO AS MUCH AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO FIX THEM. BUT WE ARE STICKERS FOR FACTS AND PERSPECTIVE, AND IN CASE ANYBODY IS STILL INTERESTED IN THOSE THINGS, WE HAVE A FEW THAT ARE WORTH MENTIONING.

Mr. CUMMINGS HAS NOT SINGLE-HANDEDLY SOLVED BALTIMORE’S RACIAL AND CLASS INEQUITIES, ITS INJUSTICES, ITS BLIGHT, ITS EPIDEMICS OF LEAD POISONING AND ASTHMA, ITS VIOLENCE OR, INDEED, ITS PROBLEMS WITH RATS. AND HE HAS BEEN IN OFFICE FOR A LONG TIME, MORE THAN 20 YEARS BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES. BUT BALTIMORE’S PROBLEMS go back farther than that.

President Trump, whose early career was marred by a federal housing discrimination suit, may be interested to know that Balti more’s problems were a pioneer in that regard. It enacted the first housing segregation ordinances, which were soon invalidated by the Supreme Court, leading to subtler and more nefarious tactics. Racially restrictive covenants, privately enforced, prevented the sale of homes in certain neighborhoods to minorities. Redlining prevented minorities from being able to buy homes in white neighborhoods. And blockbusting made rich the unscrupulous men who capitalized on racism and fear to drive white flight. They profiteered on blacks who sought security and better opportunities but instead found themselves exploited and impoverished.

Those days aren’t nearly so far in the past as we might like to think. Just seven years ago, Baltimore settled a landmark lending discrimination suit against Wells Fargo, which steered minority borrowers into subprime mortgages—the sort of abuse the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which Wells Fargo is well known for, said it had prevented. Landlords in Baltimore continue to take advantage of rules stacked in their favor to evict low-income (and frequently minority) tenants; in a particularly egregious example, the Kushner Cos. (as in Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner) has aggressively sought to jail tenants who fall behind on their rent. As whites moved to the suburbs, along the way by massive investments in new highways, water and sewer systems, schools and other public amenities, the infrastructure began to crumble. Neighborhoods like those in the East and West Baltimore portions of Mr. CUMMINGS’ district became increasingly isolated from economic and educational opportunities. (Mr. CUMMINGS was among the Baltimore leaders who sought to address that problem through the development of housing, including by building low-income housing close to employment centers including the Social Security Administration and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center.)

Meanwhile, back in the ’90s, Democrats and Republicans both discovered that espousing zero-tolerance policing was great politics, so long as it was enforced disproportionately against black and brown people in the nation’s cities and not against whites in suburban and rural communities. Plenty of people share blame for that, including former Vice President Al Gore; former Maryland Gov. (and former Baltimore mayor) Martin O’Malley. But not a lot of them continue to espouse the notion that locking more people up—especially for stop and frisking—on the streets are good ideas, as the Trump administration has done.

The Obama administration tried to do something about the pockets of concentrated poverty in American cities (and Baltimore specifically) by using federal housing policy to affirmatively foster desegregation, something the Fair Housing Act had called for 50 years before, but Mr. Trump’s HUD secretary, Baltimore’s own Ben Carson, has been working to dismantle those efforts.

We will agree with President Trump on one thing, though. We wish Mr. CUMMINGS weren’t so focused on investigating the White House. Trump administration officials continued public business on private email accounts or that the president of the United States didn’t look on the office as a giant prop, center for himself and his family. If not for things like that, Mr. CUMMINGS’ role as chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform would probably take up much less of his time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Here is what yesterday’s Baltimore Sun editorial states:

President Trump’s early career was marred by a federal housing discrimination suit, may be interested to know that Baltimore was something of a pioneer in that regard. It enacted the first housing segregation ordinances, which were soon invalidated by the Supreme Court, leading to subtler and more nefarious tactics. Racially restrictive covenants, privately enforced, prevented the sale of homes in certain neighborhoods to minorities. Redlining prevented minorities from being able to buy homes in white neighborhoods. And blockbusting made rich the unscrupulous men who capitalized on racism and fear to drive white flight. They profiteered on blacks who sought security and better opportunities but instead found themselves exploited and impoverished.

Those days aren’t nearly so far in the past as we might like to think. Just seven years ago, Baltimore settled a landmark lending discrimination suit against Wells Fargo, which steered minority borrowers into subprime mortgages—the sort of abuse the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which Wells Fargo is well known for, said it had prevented. Landlords in Baltimore continue to take advantage of rules stacked in their favor to evict low-income (and frequently minority) tenants; in a particularly egregious example, the Kushner Cos. (as in Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner) has aggressively sought to jail tenants who fall behind on their rent. As whites moved to the suburbs, along the way by massive investments in new highways, water and sewer systems, schools and other public amenities, the infrastructure began to crumble. Neighborhoods like those in the East and West Baltimore portions of Mr. CUMMINGS’ district became increasingly isolated from economic and educational opportunities. (Mr. CUMMINGS was among the Baltimore leaders who sought to address that problem through the development of housing, including by building low-income housing close to employment centers including the Social Security Administration and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. (By Baltimore Sun Editorial Board)

In case anyone missed it, the president of the United States had some choice words to describe Maryland’s 7th congressional district yesterday. In a tirade that runs from western Howard County to the 7th as a whole. He failed to mention Democratic incumbent Elijah Cummings by name, instead referring to him as a “rattled” member of Congress.

The congressman has been a thorn in this president’s side, and Mr. Trump sees attacking African American members of Congress as good politics, as it both warms the cockles of the white supremacists who love him and causes so many of the thoughtful people who don’t to scream. President Trump bad-mouthed Baltimore in order to make a point last month, and the mayor of Baltimore, Catherine Pugh, retorted: “There is a rat and rodent infestation. There is a rat and rodent infestation.”

It’s not hard to see what’s going on here. The congressman has been a thorn in this president’s side, and Mr. Trump sees attacking African American members of Congress as good politics, as it both warms the cockles of the white supremacists who love him and causes so many of the thoughtful people who don’t to scream. President Trump bad-mouthed Baltimore in order to make a point last month, and the mayor of Baltimore, Catherine Pugh, retorted: “There is a rat and rodent infestation. There is a rat and rodent infestation.”

We do have a legacy of discrimination in Baltimore City to overcome. The President, instead of challenging that legacy, has decided to pile on in the manner he did with his comments.
In pointing to the 7th, the president wasn’t hoping his supporters would recognize landmarks like Johns Hopkins Hospital, perhaps the nation’s leading medical center. He wasn’t referring to the headquarters of the U.S. Social Security Administration, where they write the checks that so many retired and disabled Americans depend upon. It wasn’t about the beauty of the Inner Harbor or the history of Fort McHenry. And it surely wasn’t about the economic standing of a district where the median income is actually above the national average. No. He was referring to an old standby of attacking an African American lawmaker from a majority black district on the most emotional and bogged of any arguments. It is only surprising that there wasn’t room for a few classic phrases like “you people” or “welfare queens” or “crime-ridden ghettos” or a suggestion that the congressman “go back to where he came from.”

This is a president who will happily debase himself at the slightest provocation. And given Mr. Cummings’ criticisms of U.S. border policy, the various investigations he has launched as chairman of the House Oversight Committee, his willingness to call Mr. Trump to task on a leadership role in the treatment of the freshmen congresswomen, and the fact that “Fox & Friends” had recently aired a segment critical of the city, slamming Baltimore as an irredeemable Pavlovian way. Fox News rang the bell, the president salivated and his thumbs moved across his cell phone into action.

As heartening as it has been to witness public figures rise to Charm City’s defense on Saturday, from native daughter House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young, we would above all remind the President: This is unacceptable.

We know the Office of the President is frequently referred to as a bully pulpit that he can use, but the President of the United States cannot be a bully. Yet that is exactly what he is doing, trying to bully minorities and others in this country. It will not work.

The bully is not ELIJAH CUMMINGS, as the President Trump called him. The bully is President Trump, the person who is dividing our country. It should be President Trump, and he should be the one bringing us together.

Why does he do this? I don’t think any of us believe that he isn’t doing it for political reasons. He wants to distract from what is happening in this country. In the Congress of the United States, Congressman CUMMINGS is leading a committee that has the responsibility of checks and balances of our system to act as a check on the President of the United States. Does anybody in this Chamber believe there shouldn’t be a check and balance in our system on this President? Look at how he has used his Executive powers and abused his Executive powers and the emergency declarations that he has used.

The Mueller report spells out how the President tried to interfere in the investigation. The way he talks about our judicial system is not going to follow the orders of our court, and the way he trashes our free press—

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. With that, I yield to the senior Senator from Maryland, my friend, BEN CARDIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, I thank my friend, BEN CARDIN.

Mr. CARDIN. Yes. Senator VAN HOLLEN is my seatmate and friend representing the State of Maryland in the U.S. Senate. His comments reflect the views, I hope, of the overwhelmingly majority of Americans. It is critically important that we speak out as to what the President is doing.

I have lived my entire life in Baltimore. I love Baltimore. It is a great city. As Senator VAN HOLLEN has said, it has an incredible history. It is a vibrant city. There are so many good things happening there. It has a great future, and it needs our help from the point of view of any major urban center in America.

On weekends, my wife and I will frequently walk areas of Baltimore City in order to get some exercise, to clear our heads from the workweek, and to see what is happening in Baltimore. I must tell you that it is so energizing to see the downtown Baltimore building new housing for our young people coming into our city because they know the economic future of Baltimore. They are there because they want to live in an exciting place in Baltimore City.

We see the optimism on their faces as they are doing their exercise in the morning and walking the streets of Baltimore. We see a great city that is continuing to rebuild in a modern way, learning from the past. In the United States, Congressman CUMMINGS is leading the renewal of the city of Baltimore and Congressman CUMMINGS, it is incumbent on all of us to speak out and tell the President: This is unacceptable.

We recognize from the beginning that he was going to be a great leader, and he showed that in his very early years. He rose to become speaker pro tempore of our house of delegates, and then as a member of the house of delegates.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. With that, I yield to the junior Senator from Maryland, Senator LENN. Mr. LENN. Mr. President, first, I thank my friend, BEN CARDIN.

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Mr. LENN. With that, I yield to the junior Senator from Maryland, Senator LENN.
When you have a major flood like that, most businesses don’t return. In Ellicott City, they returned. Why? Because of the Federal partnership in which Elijah Cummings played a critical role, as well as other members of our delegation and organizations.

Affordable housing—Congressman Cummings has brought affordable housing to Baltimore.

Public safety—after Freddie Gray, I will never forget the scene I was watching on the screen. We saw the riots and the disruption that started in Baltimore. There was Elijah Cummings on the streets, calming things down and saving lives. That is what he was doing to represent his community. That is the type of legislator he is.

He has provided support for public safety in Baltimore, for public education in Baltimore, and for STEM education in Baltimore City public schools.

So, President Trump, when you say this guy hasn’t done his work to represent the people in the Seventh Congressional District, you are absolutely wrong. Come to Baltimore. Let us show you exactly what we have been able to accomplish and how you can help us, but don’t defame our city. You are the President of the United States. Act as President. Bring us together. Recognize that you are responsible for this entire country, and help us with the problems that we have in Baltimore.

Again, I don’t have to defend my city. My city is well known. It is one of the great cities in America, but I am going to do it anyway because I want my colleagues to understand how proud we are of our city, those of us who represent the State of Maryland and represent Baltimore City.

There is the Nation’s first Washington Monument, the National Aquarium, Oriole Park, M&T Bank, Fort McHenry. I talk about Enoch Pratt Library, one of the great libraries in America that gave free libraries to the people of our city. There is Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center.

I could go through all the museums we have in Baltimore: the American Visionary Art Museum; the Baltimore Museum of Art; the Baltimore Museum of Industry; Walters Art Gallery; the Jewish Museum of Maryland; Babe Ruth born in Baltimore; the Reginald F. Lewis Museum; and the B&O Railroad Museum. How many of us have been there? The great history of the railroads in Baltimore started there. There is the Maryland Science Center.

There are great sports icons that have come out of Baltimore—from Johnny Unitas to Frank Robinson, to Brooks Robinson, Cal Ripken, and Ray Lewis.

We have great healthcare institutions—Johns Hopkins. I just got an email as I was sitting on the floor. I know the rules of the Senate prohibit me from looking at my electronic device, but U.S. News & World Report today ranked the Johns Hopkins department of neurology No. 1 in the Nation. It is located in Baltimore City, MD.

We can go over the other great institutions, the University of Maryland Medical Center, the Kennedy Krieger Institute, and the Lieber Institute for Brain Development.

We have great colleges, from Morgan State University to the University of Maryland School of Law, to Loyola University, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Coppin State, Notre Dame of Maryland University. The list goes on and on: farmers markets and public markets; trend-setting writers from John Waters to David Simon, Tom Clancy, and Barry Levinson; the unique neighborhoods from “Lil’ Idae” to Pigtown.

Baltimore is well known. The Taste of Baltimore—how many of you know that the only place you can get a really good crab cake is in Baltimore City? We all know that. And there are Old Bay Seasoning, Berger Cookies, and Goetze’s Candies.

There is the Port of Baltimore, the economic heart of our State: Domino Sugar; and Under Armour, which is investing hundreds of millions of dollars into Baltimore City because they know the future.

There are the NGOs that are centered in Baltimore—the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Supporting Center for Urban Families, Catholic Relief Services, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

I do this in hopes that the President might be listening so that he can learn a little bit about why we are so proud of Baltimore City. What we do ask is very simple. To the President: Come and learn about our urban centers and how you can help us in meeting the problems that we have in Baltimore and in many urban cities around the Nation. We need a Federal partner who will help us with our economic growth and help us meet the challenges of the future.

It is exciting to live in Baltimore, and it is exciting to see our city grow. I am proud to be a Baltimorean, and I am proud to represent Baltimore in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator CARDIN, for talking about some of the highlights of Baltimore City and the story of Baltimore City.

It is a history of much good but also a lot of challenges that I enumerated earlier. It doesn’t do Baltimore City or any city in this country any good when the person in the highest office in this country launches these nasty, personal, racial attacks against it.

I know the President had a history of these kinds of comments before he came to the Oval Office. But now that he is in the Oval Office, all of us have an obligation and responsibility to speak out when he fouls the office in that way.

If the President really wants to help cities like Baltimore, he can do some of the things Senator CARDIN talked about last year. Aschairman of the Appropriations Committee, we are working to make investments that will help that city and many other cities with things like the CDBG—community development block grants—things like economic development administration programs, things like financing through CDFIs, and things like minority business enterprises. Those are four investments. They don’t solve the problems, but they certainly help.

Here is the thing. President Trump’s budget, zero—he zeroed out every single one of those programs.

I propose a major additional investment in our schools throughout this country, including title I schools, which are schools in lower income areas. That would be a huge boost to education throughout the country and to the city of Baltimore.

As Senator CARDIN said, we need to make investments in our national infrastructure. We have a great, thriving transportation sector in Baltimore City because they know the future.

So I hope all of us will all work to focus on the things we can do to make Baltimore and Maryland and this country stronger and end this kind of divisive rhetoric. Part of ending it means speaking out against it when we see it. We need everybody in this body to join us in doing it.

Again, I think when it comes to the city of Baltimore, it is going to rise way above the President’s comments. It understands it has challenges, but it also understands it has a great future. Let us—all together—be part of a great future for Baltimore and this country, and that means coming together to serve the interests of all of our constituents.

I thank the Senate for the time Senator CARDIN and I have had here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the need to fix our broken budget and spending process.

Picking up efforts we began in the 114th Congress, the Senate Budget Committee last year held several months holding hearings and meetings with Members of Congress, State officials, the administration, and stakeholder groups to listen to their budget
reform priorities. Along the way, we have collected a lot of good ideas.

Today, I come to the floor to outline the fiscal reform plan that incorporates a lot of the feedback we received. It reflects suggestions from Members on both sides of the aisle and ideas from groups that span the political spectrum. These reforms are not driven by politics but, instead, are rooted in fixing our broken budget and spending process in favor of a system that works for everyone.

In developing this plan, my focus was on creating a durable system to substantially manage our country’s finances, to improve transparency, to improve oversight, to improve accountability in the budget process, and to end the brinksmanship in our fiscal debates.

I have broken the plan down into four separate discussion drafts, which I am sharing this week with Senate Budget Committee members. Each of the discussion drafts is different and apart of the broken budget and spending process.

The first proposal is the most ambitious. It would reorient the budget process around long-term planning and shift the government to a biennial budgeting and spending system. There are 20 States, including my home State of Wyoming, that have some form of biennial budgeting and appropriations. I have long believed that one of the most important reforms we could do at the Federal level would be to move to a biennial process to have the problem only every other year.

The plan proposes to maintain the budget resolution as a concurrent resolution but with a few important changes.

First, it would change how we write the budget. Topline discretionary figures would be clearly stated in the resolution, while mandatory spending would continue to be displayed on a portfolio basis. This new approach will allow each individual Member to have more of a say in the budget through the amendment process.

Second, it would require the budget resolution to include debt-to-GDP targets to focus Congress on creating a path to stabilize our debt levels and sustainably manage our finances. It would even provide an estimate of anticipated revenues.

Third, this plan would allow for, upon adoption of a concurrent resolution on the budget, the automatic enrollment of a bill that would set discretionary spending caps—something that has taken until right now to get done this year—enforced by both Congress and OMB and increase the debt limit in line with the levels assumed in the resolution. It saves a lot of time.

The proposal seeks to encourage Congress and the President to reach agreement on a fiscal framework early in the legislative process, to ensure that the budget resolution as a congressional document. The budget resolution would be enforced whether or not the President signs the joint resolution.

To encourage Congress to adhere to its budget blueprint, the proposal would create a special reconciliation process that would be triggered if the Congressional Budget Office finds that Congress is not on a path toward meeting the budget resolution’s fiscal target that everybody voted on. This process would allow Congress to make surgical changes to achieve the debt target and could only be used for deficit reduction. The Byrd rule, which prohibits changes to Social Security in reconciliation, would apply.

The plan also seeks to get legislative committees more involved in the budget process. It would require them, at the beginning of the process, to share their plans to address spending on unauthorized programs in their jurisdiction, as well as programs that Agency-based inspectors general and the Government Accountability Office have identified as in need of improvement.” For that budget cycle, the committee would have to suggest a dollar amount for those programs listed as “such sums.”

It would change our committee’s name to the Fiscal Control Committee to better reflect the committee’s focus on setting spending and revenue guardrails. It would also require the chair and ranking members of the Appropriations and Finance Committees, if not already members of the Fiscal Control Committee, to serve as nonvoting members of the committee. This change is intended to increase the input in the primary spending and tax committees in developing fiscal plans.

The second discussion draft I am releasing deals with congressional budget enforcement. Justice Louis Brandeis once wrote that “sunlight is said to be the best disinfectant.” In keeping with this philosophical principle, the proposal would require reports tracking Congress’s adherence to its budget plan to be regularly printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and posted on a publicly accessible website. This would help ensure that Members of Congress understand the leadership of each committee are accountable for their fiscal decisions.

The other two components of this draft deal with Senate budget points of order, which are the means through which Congress enforces the Congressional Budget Act. These points of order are expected to create a meaningful obstacle to breaching the budget, but in recent years they have been routinely ignored or waived.

The discussion draft proposes to make it harder to rewrite “inconvenient” budget rules. There have been a number of attempts in recent years to rewrite budget rules outside of the normal budget process to allow for more spending. There is already a point of order that prevents the President from violating the Congressional Budget Act, but that point of order lies against the whole measure, making it a very blunt instrument. The discussion draft would make the current point of order surgical so it would target only the offending provision without threatening to shut down the whole bill.

In a similar vein, the discussion draft would allow global waivers for surgical points of order. Right now, any Senator can make a single motion to waive all budget points of order that lie against a measure. These global waivers allow numerous budget rules to be broken with one vote, regardless of whether the points of order that lie are surgical or apply to the whole measure. These waivers have even been used to preemptively prevent surgical points of order that could alter the bill text if they are not being waived. The discussion draft aims to end that practice and ensure the ability of Senators to raise points of order that could remedy a budget violation without killing the bill.

The third discussion draft I am releasing deals with Congressional Budget Office operations and transparency. The CBO serves a vital role in the budget and legislative processes. While the Agency’s longstanding mission has been to produce timely, clear, and accurate information for Congress, there have been growing calls for increased transparency in the estimating process. The discussion draft aims to build on bipartisanship reform already underway at the CBO in a number of ways.

No. 1, it would require CBO to report on its transparency initiatives, review past estimates to see where the Agency got it right or got it wrong, and produce underlying data for its estimates of major legislation.

No. 2, it would require interest costs to be included as supplemental information in cost estimates, ensuring that lawmakers and the public have better information about the true costs of legislation.

No. 3, it would require public cost estimates of appropriations legislation. Unlike legislation authorized by authorizing committees, there is not currently a requirement for CBO to provide public estimates of legislation reported by the Appropriations Committee.

No. 4, it would require CBO and the Government Accountability Office to conduct ongoing portfolio reviews of Federal programs to help lawmakers identify spending on duplicative, overlapping, and fragmented programs, as well as long-term funding trends and liabilities.

That was my third discussion draft.

My fourth discussion draft relates to how budget resolutions are considered on the Senate floor. The Congressional Budget Act provides special expedited procedures for consideration of a budget resolution on the Senate floor. These procedures were meant to ensure that the budget is considered and adopted in a defensible, efficient manner. However, arcane floor procedures and a quirk of the act have undermined this intent by allowing
marathon of votes known as a vote-arama. Once debate on the budget has ended, we have a vote-arama. Without time for debate or analysis of what is being proposed, this process is not conducive to substantive consideration of fiscal policy and serves as a major deterrent to consideration of a budget on the floor. The discussion draft aims to establish a more orderly process for Senate consideration of the budget resolution that ensures the ability of Senators from both sides of the aisle to offer amendments and consider a final bill on the floor. The majority of these funds—90 percent—are distributed by the formula to the States, providing maximum flexibility in the use of funds and with the States acting as the best stewards of taxpayers’ dollars. Under this proposal, even if the maximum debate time was burned on each amendment, 24 amendments could be considered. Coincidentally, 24 is both the average and the median number of rollcall votes on budget resolutions since 1976. Of course, it isn’t 1 minute of debate. It would be an hour of debate. This proposal would apply only to the Senate consideration of budget resolutions and would not preclude adoption of a managers’ package, apply to reconciliation bills, or change House procedures.

We can all agree that the current budget and spending system has broken down. Reforming this dysfunctional system has been a goal of mine since entering the Senate and is one of my top priorities before I leave this body at the end of this Congress.

I encourage my colleagues to consider the reform ideas I have laid out today and invite their feedback. I am hopeful that through this process, we will be able to reach bipartisan agreement to end the current dysfunction and put our country back toward a sustainable fiscal future—and on time so we will not have government shutdowns.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

AMERICA’S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, yesterday I joined the fellow leaders of the Environment and Public Works Committee to introduce America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act, a 5-year reauthorization bill that would deliver resources to repair and maintain critical surface transportation infrastructure.

Today the committee approved our comprehensive legislation with a strong bipartisan vote of 21 to 0 this morning.

As the chair of the EPW’s Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, I am incredibly proud of this legislation, which is the result of months of serious negotiations with the full committee chairman, Senator BARRASSO, and Ranking Member CARPER, my subcommittee, and my ranking member, Senator CARDIN of Maryland.

It was not always easy, but I think we have produced a bill that achieves our priorities and secures needed investments in our Nation’s infrastructure. First and foremost, the bill provides in-tide investments in highway investment. How many times do we hear: We don’t have enough money to complete this. We can’t get it done.

This also maintains the States’ shares through formula dollars. That means a rising tide lifts all boats, whether a State is urban or rural, like my home State of West Virginia.

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tax bases. Completing this system would generate an additional $8.7 billion in annual economic activity. It would support another 46,000 jobs and lead to an additional $2.7 billion in worker income. These are very significant numbers. I can’t really overstate the value that the additional economic activity would have in our region.

Unfortunately, the Appalachian Development Highway System is only 90 percent complete. The remaining 10 percent generally represents the most challenging terrain, and that means these are the costliest and most environmentally complicated miles to complete. We have to get this done.

The highway system was started almost 55 years ago. America is better off today than it was then—particularly for our Appalachian communities and making and keeping our economy and quality of life competitive.

The Appalachian Development Highway System completion was identified as being in our national interest in the last two highway bills. But it is America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act that will actually provide a mechanism to make this happen.

Beyond the regulatory reforms I just spoke about, my language allows States that for whatever reason have accrued significant Appalachian Development Highway System balances to exchange those dollars with States like West Virginia that are still working to complete projects, like our Corridor H. But we lack the resources to engineer and construct these challenging remaining miles. In return, those States that turn their dollars back into the Appalachian Development Highway System will receive dollars that they could use for any project in their State that would otherwise be eligible as a Federal highway project. That means that States can respond to the changing transportation needs in their particular area. They use excess dollars from an undersubscribed Federal loan program, which has historically not contributed to infrastructure investment in rural America.

This would be a win for all States involved. Those needing additional funding will be able to continue to advance the Appalachian Development Highway System, and States that have needed to shift their focus—say on growing urban transportation needs—will have the added flexibility to be able to do that.

I appreciate my fellow Appalachian Development Highway System State committee colleagues for working with me to include this provision, as well as Leader McConnell’s support on this section of the bill and our counterpart legislation, the Advancing Infrastructure Development in Appalachia Act.

The committee also included language I wrote in and worked with those individuals on to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission—a key economic development agency—at $180 million a year. My provision also doubles to $20 million the funding available for something that I care deeply about, and that is broadband deployment in Appalachia, which is a critical tool for connecting our communities and keeping our region more competitive.

I thank Leader McConnell and Ranking Member Carper and Senator Wicker for their support of this language and the stand-alone ARC authorization bill.

Leader McConnell also joined me in authorizing the ARC to provide up to $5 million in grants to support the development of a central Appalachian natural gas liquids storage hub, along with the associated downstream manufacturing sector for it. This infrastructure project would be huge for the economies of West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. In fact, the American Chemistry Council estimates that this central hub and downstream manufacturing would generate $36 billion in capital investment and more than 100,000 jobs. It would also help keep a much larger share of the economic value and employment opportunity in our States where the resources are compared to just producing and then exporting the gas and associated natural gas liquids to other parts of the country or abroad.

Secretary Perry and the Department of Energy have also endorsed the concept of this project, as well as the significant economic and energy security dividends that it would pay for Appalachia and the entire United States. This is somewhat of a modest investment given the significant private sector capital needed to build this out, but it is essential that the Federal Government send clear messages to potential investors that it supports this driver of economic growth in an area that would greatly benefit.

This legislation gives the ARC the power to lead the way.

Investment in our country’s infrastructure system and the many aspects of our American life, from keeping us competitive in the global economy and keeping our drivers safe—there are a lot of safety aspects in this bill—to reducing irritating congestion and minimizing impacts to the economy.

America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act delivers on all these fronts and ensures that rural America will benefit equally from these investments against the interests of legislation that would help rebuild and repair our infrastructure system, but it will also help us create new infrastructure opportunities for generations to come.

I appreciate my colleagues’ collaboration. My colleagues from Rhode Island are on the floor. He was on the committee this morning when we both voted in favor of this legislation. It is a bipartisan bill working to make sure that this country sees a 5-year highway reauthorization and all the benefits it would provide.

I think all my Senate colleagues will find a lot to like in this legislation. I am hoping we get it on the floor in the fall. I encourage their support when it comes time for a vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. McSally). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator from West Virginia for her work on the highway bill that we voted out of the Environment and Public Works Committee today and on our industrial emissions bill and on carbon capture. It has been a terrific working relationship.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KIM BINSTED AND DR. RYAN EDWARDS

Madam President, as I begin my 251st “Time to Wake Up” remarks, I would like to thank two AAAS fellows who will be shortly leaving my office.

Dr. Kim Binsted came to us from the University of Chicago and led the Analog Field Experiment on Antarctica. She has been a terrific working relationship and is thus by far the best cricket player on my staff—low bar. Next up for him will be Houston and more carbon capture research.

I thank both of them for their service and their expertise, and I wish them the best.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, tomorrow, about 2½ miles from here, executives from some of the biggest fossil fuel companies in the world will be meeting at the United Nations Climate Change conference in Poland. It is a power-packed event. The chamber is the most powerful lobbying force here in Washington and a fierce political operator. The fossil fuel industry runs for re-election and often covert political opposition. They are a $650 billion annual subsidy, as the International Monetary Fund estimates, so hundreds of millions spent on lobbying and election mischief is money well spent: The Chamber and Big Oil together have stopped climate progress here.

For the member companies of the chamber, including companies that say they support climate action, it is time to confront the relationship between the chamber and the fossil fuel industry. The Earth is spinning toward climate catastrophe. Action in Congress to limit carbon pollution is essential to averting this catastrophe. Yet the chamber, according to Dog House InfluenceMap, is in a virtual tie as the most obstructive group on climate change, blocking legislation, opposing Executive action, and even seeking to undermine climate science. The chamber is so obstructive, it would be better called the Chamber of Carbon.

The chamber has opposed one comprehensive climate bill after another—
first, the bipartisan cap-and-trade bill in 2005, the Energy Policy Act. The chamber helped defeat it with a Key Vote Alert—a signal that whoever voted in favor of the bill could face an onslaught of Chamber political attacks in their next election.

In 2007, the chamber ran political TV ads against climate legislation, claiming that it would prevent people from heating their homes or that they wouldn’t be able to drive to work any longer. Here is somebody cooking an egg on a glow in the dark watch to prove the point.

In 2009, the chamber led the charge against the Waxman-Markey bill. For that legislation, the chamber pulled out all the stops—haranguing Members, more “vote alerts” and “how they voted” scorecards, sending more messages of election doom if they dared to support Waxman-Markey. Since the U.S. Chamber tanked Waxman-Markey, Republicans in Congress have refused to hold hearings on, mark up, debate, or vote on any legislation proposing a policy framework for economy-wide reductions in carbon pollution.

It is not just in Congress that the chamber wields its baleful influence; the chamber also fought climate action in the courts and at the executive branch. In fact, in 2010, the chamber sued the EPA to overturn the finding that greenhouse gas emissions endanger public health and welfare. You would think it would be obvious that they do that around, and you will see that they do. Disabling the endangerment finding would cripple the Agency’s ability to regulate carbon pollution under the Clean Air Act, so off went the chamber.

When the courts rejected this lawsuit on the endangerment finding, then the chamber became central command for corporate lawyers, coal lobbyists, and Republican political strategists to devise legal schemes to fight climate regulation. This produced another chamber lawsuit to block the Clean Power Plan reducing carbon pollution from powerplants.

Of course, once President Trump took office, the chamber went from defense to offense and attacked many Obama administration rules limiting carbon pollution. The chamber even funded the phony report the Trump administration used to justify leaving the Paris accord.

Perhaps worst of all, the Chamber has fought against science itself. It has proposed putting the evidence—the scientific evidence—of climate change on trial in what its own officials have branded the “Scopes monkey trial of the 21st century.” That is what this crowd was for. Indeed, the Chamber has said the trial “would be evolution versus creationism.” Guess what side it would be on.

This is not your hometown Chamber, folks.

The Chamber has even tried to limit the scientific studies that regulators could consider. The Chamber’s evident target was public health studies that demonstrate just how dangerous burning fossil fuels is to public health. The Chamber is an electioneering force, not just a lobbying force, and it spends massive sums in politics to shore up its control in Congress. Since the 2010 Citizens United decision has allowed outside spending on electioneering activities, the Chamber has funneled, roughly, $150 million into congressional races, which has made the Chamber the largest distributor of undisclosed donations—dark money, we call it—of all the Chamber’s groups.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the Presiding Officer. I appreciate that courtesy.

Blocking action on climate has been the central focus of the Chamber’s campaign spending. It ran this ad in Pennsylvania in 2016. Two moms watch their children on a playground. One comments on how much energy the children use. The other says: Oh, don’t say that. The candidate wants to tax that energy. The ad gets even weirder when a faceless woman arrives in a car and steps out toward the children. Alarmed, one of the mothers yells, “Run, Jimmy, Run.” Classy stuff. I wonder who the Chamber was fronting for.

So how does the Chamber’s anti-climate crusade square with its big corporate members?

It has members like Coke and Pepsi, which have good internal climate policies and websites that are full of commitments to reduce corporate carbon footprints, and they have signed letters on climate action.

Pepsi signed the Ceres BICEP Climate Declaration. Coke plans to reduce CO2 emissions by 25 percent. It says it “will work to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions across its value chain, making comprehensive carbon footprint reductions across its manufacturing processes, packaging formats, delivery fleet, refrigeration equipment and ingredient sourcing.”

Yet both Coke and Pepsi fund the Chamber of Commerce, and they fund the American Beverage Association, which, in turn, runs more money to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The end result? Two companies that are actively reducing their carbon emissions and that enthusiastically support good climate policy stand in the position of funding the Chamber, of opposing climate action here in Washington—the place where it really counts.

Verizon has reduced its carbon intensity by 28 percent since 2016, and its CEO and co-publicly stated Verizon’s commitment to combat climate change. Yet Verizon, too, funds the Chamber’s obstruction.

Then there is Google with its motto: “Don’t be evil.” Google is warning its children. Alarmed, one of the mothers yells: “Don’t be evil.” Google is warning its children on a playground. One comment on how much energy the children use. The other says: Oh, don’t say that. The candidate wants to tax that energy. The ad gets even weirder when a faceless woman arrives in a car and steps out toward the children. Alarmed, one of the mothers yells, “Run, Jimmy, Run.” Classy stuff. I wonder who the Chamber was fronting for.

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Then there is Google with its motto: “Don’t be evil.” Google is warning its investors that climate change threatens its systems. It says that it is vulnerable to damage or interruption from natural disasters and to the effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, drought, flooding, wildfires, and increased storm severity. Google has signed pledges to fight climate change; yet Google, too, funds the Chamber’s anti-climate crusade.

Coke, Pepsi, Verizon, and Google are just four examples among many. These companies say they support climate action but fund one of climate action’s worst opponents.

Why does the Chamber put these members in this position? The best explanation I have is that the fossil fuel industry is secretly calling the shots at the Chamber; that is, it is secretly funding the Chamber. That would explain the Chamber’s refusal to disclose its funders.

I think this is a governance issue now for these companies, particularly for those members who serve on the Chamber’s board. Board members of nonprofit organizations have a common law duty of care. Not knowing who is funding your organization looks like a breach of that duty of care.

The Chamber’s member companies need to ask themselves: Do we know who is funding the Chamber? Do we know how much each donor is giving? Do those donations explain the Chamber’s years of obstruction?

The Chamber holds itself out as a business association. Another question: Why is it accepting money from nonbusinesses?

In 2012 and 2014, the Chamber took at least $5.5 million from front groups that have been backed by the Koch brothers. In 2014, it took $5.25 million from a front group that was affiliated with Karl Rove.

Did the Chamber’s board members know this? Did they exercise the proper duty of care? Do they know what nonbusiness money is funding the Chamber these days? Do they know what percentage of the Chamber’s funding comes secretly from fossil fuel interests?

I don’t think the Chamber’s board members know the answers to any of these questions.

Here is a question for the general counsel of these board member corporations: should they know or are you going to go with willful ignorance? Good luck with that.

The bottom line is simple. Chamber board members with good climate policies are supporting one of the worst climate obstructors. Indeed, they are writing big checks to do so. This, I believe, is not just a moral problem but a governance problem. If these companies aren’t asking these tough questions and if they are not pushing the Chamber to be transparent about its funding, they are answerable. Until this mess gets sorted out, in spite of all of corporate America’s efforts to reduce emissions, its
funding of the “U.S. Chamber of Carbon” means that corporate America is doing more harm than good for our climate.

Again, I thank the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma for his courtesy in allowing me the extra time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, first of all, despite what some people might think, I have the highest regard for the Senator from Rhode Island.

It is very interesting in that the climate is changing, and the climate has always changed. All evidence out there—all historical evidence, all scriptural evidence—tells us over and over again that the climate is changing. It always has been changing, and it will always change.

The good news is that the world is not coming to an end because of climate change because the climate is always changing. So, for those people who believe the world is coming to an end because of greenhouse gas emissions, the good news is it is not. I am happy to share that good news with you.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Madam President, I am here to speak about some other good news, which is that we have an opportunity with a vote that is coming up. Some people call it the budget vote or the budget agreement. I refer to it as a defense agreement. I think everybody knows where I stand on this. This is a vote that is going to have to come up before too long, and there is a unique group of people in the U.S. Senate who know the reason that we have to pass the defense budget. They are the members of the Senate’s Committee on Armed Services. It happens that I chair that committee and that I am the member who knows the reason that we have to pass the budget. They are the members of the Senate’s Committee on Armed Services. It happens that I chair that committee and that I have done really great work.

I am unanimous to consent to speak as in morning business for such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, we had a situation in which we went through an 8-year period of time when our military was somewhat devastated, and I want to share some of the specifics of that because it is a serious thing. We are going to be voting on the defense budget agreement, and I have already stated where I stand on it. I am here to outline why the budget agreement is necessary for our national defense.

This defense budget agreement will be able to focus our the Senate’s Armed Services’ top priorities, one of which is to fix the on-base privatization of military housing.

Remember that this happened about 6 months ago. We discovered, all of a sudden, that we were not doing a good job on our privatized housing. Hey, I have to admit that I am partly responsible for that because I was around here when we decided to privatize the housing. It did work for a while. I think, after a period of time, people got a little careless, and there was a little slack. Some of the contractors who made that commitment got a little bit greedy. This information as to how bad these conditions came from a person at Tinker Air Force Base who was the spouse of a military person. When I first heard this, I thought there were bad conditions just in my State of Oklahoma, but there were not; they were all over the Nation.

So we fixed the problem. We fixed it with our defense authorization bill, and we had a lot of provisions in there. We are now modernizing our military housing in a way that is going to be good for all of our spouses and others who are forced to live there. For some reason, if our defense budget agreement were to go down in flames and not be passed, there wouldn’t be the modernizing of our military or the giving to our troops a well-deserved pay raise, and therefore, I have a pay raise in a long time. This is going to be the largest pay raise for our military people in the last 10 years. It is a good thing.

By the way, people are always talking about how we can be so concerned about building our military when we have China and Russia that have passed us up in many areas and spend just a fraction of the amount. The reason is very simple, which is that China and Russia don’t have to do anything for their soldiers. We take care of ours. We try to provide good housing. We provide the types of things that our all-volunteer force can be very proud of and are very proud of. That is something we have to incur. The largest single expenditure that we have in the military is end strength—the people out there. Communist countries—China, Russia—don’t have to worry about that. “Here’s a gun. Go out and kill somebody.” We don’t have that luxury, and we wouldn’t do that if we wanted to.

If we don’t pass this budget bill, the effects on the military will be devastating. Let me just share a couple of things that would happen.

We would force the Department of Defense to operate under a continuing resolution, which would shortchange our troops and waste taxpayer dollars. We all know that. We would face destructive, haphazard cuts in sequestration. What is it we hear on our committee? The President Officer is fully familiar, for she is one of the most loyal members of the Senate’s Committee on Armed Services. We have posture hearings for about 6 months at the beginning of every year with the leaders of the various branches of the military—General Votel, Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, ADM Craig Faller, ADM Phil Davidson, all of these people.

What do they tell us? They tell us that if we don’t actually start funding our military again, we are going to have sequestration. Look, if we vote for this thing and pass it, we will end the sequestration problems and threats forever. It will not happen again.

What else do they tell us? They tell us that a CR, which is a continuing resolution, is an absolute disaster. A lot of people in this body don’t know this, but every member of the Senate’s Committee on Armed Services does know this because they were there.

All of these people—16 leaders—come in for posture hearings each year, and we know the problems we are having and the problems we are confronted with. We would be faced with cuts in sequestration.

This document right here is the “Assessment and Recommendations of the National Defense Strategy Commission.” Here it is right here. This is our blueprint of what we are doing to save America and to put us back on top in all of these areas in which we are deficient. If, for some reason, we don’t pass this defense budget agreement, then we will not be able to continue the implementation of the national defense strategy, and we all know that. Certainly, we don’t all know that, but the members of the Senate’s Committee on Armed Services do know that.

So that is what would happen. But what would this mean? The members of the Armed Services Committee know what it means, but for everybody else, the deficit budget deal would end the threat of sequestration forever. You don’t need me to tell you that sequestration would be devastating.

General Milley, just confirmed to be the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that the levels of funding caused by sequestration would place America “at great risk.”

Remember, unfortunately, Heather Wilson, the former Air Force Secretary who had to leave her position. She said the cuts would be “absolutely devastating in scope and scale.”

If we were hit by sequestration, there would be an across-the-board cut of $71 billion to the defense programs. That would halt our progress on the Space Command and developing crucial capabilities like hypersonic weapons and artificial intelligence. Those are two areas where we have actually been passed up by both Russia and China.

Just yesterday, the DARPA announced that they have completed a successful design review of their hypersonic weapons program. Now, that is a good first step. I am really glad because we were way ahead of them back before the last administration came into office, and then, all of a sudden, over that period of time, we got behind. So, meanwhile, China and Russia are also ahead of us in their hypersonic weapons, and they are ahead of us. We are just trying to catch up, and that is what this budget vote is all about.

The 2020 NDAA invests in hypersonic weapons, but we can’t move forward if we are hit by sequestration. It would mean it would set us even further behind.
By the way, the hypersonics that we are talking about are the state of the art. That is a new thing. That is a weapon that moves at five times the speed of sound, and here we are, allowing our—I don’t want to characterize China and Russia as enemies. They are not enemies, but they are certainly on the other side, and people are in shock when they find out that they have something that we don’t have. We have to be competitive with them, and we are going to be if we pass this defense budget. That is what we are going to have before us.

So another example, in our NDAA that we passed overwhelmingly just last month, it authorized a 3.1-percent pay raise, or increase, for our troops. They deserve that pay raise, and under sequestration that pay raise is at risk. The ability for basing facilities to receive the next generation of aircraft is also at risk. If your State is like my State, your State is slated to house the F-35. As the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, they all know because they meet with us. The KC–46 is a system that is going to replace the KC–135, which has been in place now for over 50 years and so is 50 years old. That is a system, and if you were going to have one of these systems, you may not get it because of this deal. Without the budget vote that is going to take place, we wouldn’t be able to move forward with our plan, and we would be hit by sequestration. It could all be over.

I am not even going to talk about systems like the F–35, which we talk about every day, and the T–X trainer. We have had the trainers in existence now for some 50 years, and the KC–46, the same thing.

So, anyway, that is what would happen if for some reason we vote against and don’t pass the defense bill that we are going to be asked to vote on probably tomorrow.

We have also made plans to continue increasing our end strength by 17,000 troops. We are seeing the improvements we have made in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 would be at risk if we were not able to go forward and pass our defense budget act that we are going to be asked to support.

Sequestration would undo what we have been able to do over the past couple of years. That is up to 50 percent now, and that is what the chairman of the Armed Services Committee do know it. We are falling behind China and Russia as they continue to build their militaries. We are seeing persistent threats from North Korea, from Iran, from the terrorist groups, and we no longer have the best of everything, and most people don’t understand that. Of course the members of our committee do understand that.

We have set clear priorities, and now we are going to fund them. The future of our Nation is at stake. This is what it will take to regain the qualitative and quantitative advantages that we have lost.

I would have liked to have seen even more funding provided to this. The National Defense Strategy Commission—by the way, they set up a system that they can use, and that system is that we should be putting together between a 3- and a 5-percent increase over inflation, but we have not done it. We have not done it even with the budget that we are working on now.

The National Defense Strategy Commission, which is nonpartisan, has said that 3 to 5 percent growth is what is needed, and that is what we did not do.

But at the end of the day, I am willing to take this smaller than ideal increase and give our military what it needs—predictability. It is also more than what the House passed in their Defense authorization bill, which was dangerously low.

Every member of Armed Services Committee should vote for this defense budget because they know everything we have been talking about. They know that we are outnumbered and outgunned in artillery. They know that we are at a disadvantage in air defense, having only two Active-Duty battalions. Nuclear Triad modernization has not been taking place. We aren’t there. China and Russia are.

So, anyway, what I am trying to impress upon you is that those individuals who are members of the committee are fully aware of the problems we have had. They remember that under the Obama administration, at the end of the Obama administration, our Air Force was short 2,000 pilots, and 1,500 of them were fighter pilots. Only one-third of our brigade combat teams, one-fourth of our aviation brigades, and half of our divisions were ready. Also, 60 percent of our F–18s weren’t flyable. This is what we are in the process of correcting, and it is all dependent upon the passage of this budget.

So I would say to those individuals who are on the committee, I can’t imagine that any of them would not be supporting this defense budget when it comes up, and I would hope that we don’t have members of our committee who are anticipating doing things such as hearings back in their State or amendments to go as we put our Defense authorization bill through the next steps, because now is when our defense system needs to have this budget passed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.
Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I want to talk today about the American people about some progress that has been made on a very important bipartisan piece of legislation, plus what a couple other committees are doing along the same line of keeping beans in our gears. We know they will continue to fight us during the August work period.

As a lifelong farmer from Iowa, I learned a long time ago that the fruits of one’s labor will not be worth a hill of beans without proper groundwork. For months, we have been tilling the soil and fertilizing the legislative fields to bear fruit at harvest time. We have teamed up with leadership of other key committees of jurisdiction.

Top of the list is the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senators Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray, and the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senators Lindsey Graham and Diaane Feinstein, the Senate has a real opportunity this Congress to deliver meaningful reforms that would yield real savings for what Americans spend on healthcare.

Both the Health and the Judiciary Committees have advanced legislative packages that help address drug prices, including bills I have sponsored, such as the CREATES Act, the Stop StALLING Act, and the Prescription Pricing for the People Act.

Since January, the Finance Committee, which I chair, and Senator Wyden is the ranking member, has held a series of hearings to examine the vulnerabilities in the drug supply chain that are ripe for abuse. We don’t have the answers to all the problems, but it is really crystal clear that a strong dose of transparency is desperately needed to shed light on a convoluted pricing system when dealing with prescription drugs.

From the drug manufacturer to the patient’s medicine cabinet, the drug supply chain is shrouded in secrecy and is exceedingly complex. This opaque pricing system has allowed exorbitant prices to hike and higher and higher, with no end in sight.

Don’t forget, the taxpayers of the United States foot the bill for the lion’s share of prescription drugs through Medicare and Medicaid. The woolly drug supply chain allows taxpayers to be fleeced year after year. We need to let the sunshine in to help root out their abusive practices. Secrecy in the supply chain has grown into a noxious weed, damaging our free market ecosystem.

Transparency is needed to help rein in unsustainable costs threatening the fiscal viability of Medicaid and Medicare. Seniors, individuals with disability, and low-income Americans depend on prescription drug programs for drug manufacturer and insurers to keep prices lower. Pharmaceutical companies and insurers need to have more skin in the game to keep prices down. It also fixes flawed policies that distort free market principles to lower the lid on spending.

We all know in the town meetings and other places we go that Americans have spoken very loudly on this subject. They want high prescription drug prices addressed. Furthermore, Americans want Congress to act and to act now.

The Senate Finance, HELP, and Judiciary Committees have acted. Now it is time to get the job done.

As my fellow lawmakers go home over the August recess, I encourage each of you to share the good news with your constituents. Americans are fed up with sticker shock at the pharmacy counter. We have the opportunity to deliver a badly needed legislative remedy.

First, we have to drain the swampy special interests blocking the path to victory. The moneyed players in the drug supply chain will use the August recess to unleash a public relations blitz against our bipartisan efforts. You can bet the farm that Big Pharma, hospitals, and pharmacy benefit managers will whip themselves into a real frenzy to kill these bipartisan reforms.

Let’s remember why we started down this path in the first place. It is simply democracy working, representative government working. Americans are demanding relief at the prescription counter. We hear it from our constituents in our town meetings, in our letters, in our emails, and in the phone calls we get. Unchecked drug prices are putting Medicare and Medicaid in financial peril. The payment structure is unmoored from fiscal reality, and the American taxpayer is on the hook. Congress has a real opportunity to do something about this pricing of drugs.

For my colleagues who are on the fence about our bipartisan proposal—and there is nothing wrong with being on the fence because you have plenty of time to become acquainted with an issue and hear from your constituents all the time and to become acquainted with our solution—here are a series of questions I want you to ask yourself: Do Americans want us to act to reduce runaway drug prices? Do Americans want to keep access to breakthrough drug therapies and innovations? Do older Americans want protection from coverage gaps and out-of-pocket costs? Do people with disabilities and poor and elderly Americans who depend on Medicare deserve access to innovative cures and next-generation therapies?

The answer to all of these questions, I think, is a resounding yes.

Farmers are smart enough to make hay while the Sun shines. Let’s apply that time-tested farm lesson in the Congress. Don’t bail out on the opportunity to make a meaningful difference for the people whom we are elected to serve. Too many Americans are rationing or skipping doses because they can’t afford their prescription medicines.

I will finish as I started out by saying, on behalf of Senator Wyden, Senator Alexander, Senator Murray, Senator Graham, Senator Feinstein, and others, I suggest to our colleagues that this is our Goldilocks moment. Let’s not let it be a gridlock moment. Our legislative reforms are not too far right and not too far left. That is what makes our bipartisan remedy to lower prescription drug prices just exactly right for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following disposition of the Jordan nomination, the cloture vote on the following nominations in the order listed: Executive Calendar Nos. 205, 231, 232, 233, 326, 327, 345, 350, 352, and 364, and then up to 10 minutes of debate under the control of Senator Menendez prior to the vote on cloture on Calendar No. 402. I further ask consent that if cloture is invoked, the confirmation votes on the nominations be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader. Finally, I ask consent that the cloture motions on the following nominations be withdrawn: Executive Calendar Nos. 48, 55, 344, 346, 351, and 394, and the Senate vote on the
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3877
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, as in composite session, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3877 be withdrawn and that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3877. I further ask consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is filed on H.R. 3877, there be up to 2 hours of debate, equally divided between the leaders or their designees. I ask consent that the only amendment to H.R. 3877 be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, shall be confirmed by the Senate by the affirmative vote of one third of the Senators present and consenting to the suspension of the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby consult with the Democratic leader. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are necessary under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 34. The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

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 the debate on the nomination of Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), 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 54, nays 34, as follows:

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The question is, Will the Senate adopt the amendment with a 60-affirmative-vote threshold needed for adoption. Finally, I ask consent that following the disposition of the Paul amendment, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture and that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be considered expired.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired on the Jordan nomination.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jordan nomination?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are sufficient.

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senators from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in the series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

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 the debate on the nomination of Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), 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 54, nays 34, as follows:

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The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. BOOKEE).

The motion is agreed to.

NOT VOTING—12

Bennet
Booker
Cassidy
Gillibrand
Klobuchar

The PREsiding OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 37. The motion is agreed to.

The PREsiding OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows: CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows: CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 37, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 243 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander
Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Collins
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Enzi
Ernst
NAYs—37

Baldwin
Blumenthal
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Casey
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Feinstein
Hassan
Bennet
Booker
Cassidy
Gillibrand
Klobuchar

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 37. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows: CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 37, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 244 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander
Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Collins
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Enzi
Ernst
Bennet
Booker
Cassidy
Gillibrand
Klobuchar

The PREsiding OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 37. The motion is agreed to.

The PREsiding OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows: CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PREsiding OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 245 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander
Blumenthal
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Cassidy
Gillibrand
Klobuchar

The PREsiding OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 87, the nays are 1. The motion is agreed to.
Collins  Johnson  Rosen
Coons  Jones  Rounds
Coryn  Kennedy  Rubio
Cortez Masto  King  Sasse
Cotton  Lankford  Schatz
Cramer  Leahy  Schumer
Crapo  Lee  Scott (FL)
Cruz  Manchin  Scott (SC)
Daines  McConnell  Shaheen
Duckworth  McSally  Shelby
Durbin  Menendez  Sinema
Emi  Markley  Smith
Ernst  Moran  Stabenow
Feinstein  Markowski  Sullivan
Fischer  Murphy  Tester
Gardner  Murray  Thune
Graham  Paul  Tillis
Hassan  Peters  Udall
Hawley  Portman  Van Hollen
Heinrich  Reed  Whitehouse
Hyden  Risch  Wicker
Hyde-Smith  Roberts  Wyden
Inhofe  Romney  Young

Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner), 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 246 Ex.]

**YEAS—79**

Alexander  Gardner  Portman
Balduin  Graham  Reed
Barrasso  Grassley  Risch
Blackburn  Hasen  Roberts
Blumenthal  Hoeven  Romney
Boozman  Heinrich  Rosen
Burr  Hyde-Smith  Rounds
Capito  Inhofe  Rubio
Cardin  Johnson  Sanders
Casper  Leahy  Smith
Cassidy  Kaine  Sinema
Casey  Kennedy  Sasse
Collins  King  Shaheen
Coons  Lankford  Scott (FL)
Cornyn  Leahy  Scott (IC)
Cortez Masto  Lee  Smith
Crapo  McCain  Sinema
Crut  Mcconnell  Sullivan
Daines  Menendez  Tester
Duckworth  Moran  Thune
Durbin  Mushkowki  Tillis
Eski  Murphy  Toomey
Feinstein  Pende  Udal
Fischer  Peters  Van Hollen

**NAYS—1**

Hirono

The Presiding Officer. On this vote, the yeas are 87, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

**CLOTURE MOTION**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

**CLOTURE MOTION**

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Steven D. Grimes, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rules.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Cassidy) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand), the Senator from California, (Ms. Harris), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or to change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 247 Ex.]

**YEAS—72**

Alexander  Feinstein  Perdue
Barrasso  Fischer  Peters
Blackburn  Gardner  Portman
Blumenthal  Graham  Reed
Boozman  Grassley  Risch
Burr  Hoeven  Romney
Capito  Inhofe  Rubio
Cardin  Johnson  Sanders
Coons  Kennedy  Scott (FL)
Cornyn  Leahy  Scott (IC)
Cortez Masto  Lee  Smith
Crapo  McCain  Sinema
Crut  Mcconnell  Sullivan
Daines  Menendez  Tester
Duckworth  Moran  Thune
Durbin  Mushkowki  Tillis
Eski  Murphy  Toomey
Ernst  Paul  Young

**NAYS—16**

Alexander  Menendez  Stabenow
Blumenthal  Menendez  Stabenow
Brown  Murray  Van Hollen
Cantwell  Schatz  Wyden
Cassidy  Kaine  Wisen
Feinstein  Heinrich  Schumer
Hirono  Smith

The Presiding Officer. On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 16.

The motion is agreed to.

**CLOTURE MOTION**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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, shall be brought to a close.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or to change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 34, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 249 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Bennet Harris Isakson Markay
Booker Isakson Kaine Sanders
Gillibrand Klobuchar Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 34. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. McCaskill). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander Gillibrand, Mark Warner, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Alexander Gillibrand, Mark Warner, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—31

Bennet Kaine, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander Gillibrand, Mark Warner, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—31

Bennet Kaine, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander Gillibrand, Mark Warner, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—31

Bennet Kaine, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander Gillibrand, Mark Warner, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—31

Bennet Kaine, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander Gillibrand, Mark Warner, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—31

Bennet Kaine, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander Gillibrand, Mark Warner, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—31

Bennet Kaine, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander Gillibrand, Mark Warner, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—31

Bennet Kaine, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander Gillibrand, Mark Warner, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—31

Bennet Kaine, and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?
Paris climate agreement in order to show leadership. All the more disturbing are her past comments on climate change, such as when she said, “I believe there are scientists on both sides that are accurate.”

Taken together, these answers should alarm anyone who hopes that the United States can use our power, our influence, and our leadership position to promote our interests and answer the great challenges of our time. Simply put, never in our Nation’s history has a nominee presented such an underqualified person to this critical post just for being a donor.

Ms. Craft also lacks the professionalism needed to be the U.N. Ambassador. As our Ambassador to Canada, she had one job: to represent the United States in Canada. Yet, during her time in Ottawa, the defining characteristic of her service appears to be how little time she actually spent there.

The numbers speak for themselves. During the 608 days she served as U.S. Ambassador in Ottawa, she spent 337 days outside of Canada. Let me reassert that. During her 21 months assigned to Ottawa, she spent an entire year out of Canada.

For my colleagues who insist she was engaged in trade negotiations, the State Department’s own records suggest otherwise. Indeed, the record shows she spent only 40 days on travel related to USMCA. She did, however, spend 210 days at her homes in Kentucky or Oklahoma. I repeat, she spent 7 of her 21 months as our Ambassador in Canada at home in the United States. The last time I checked, not a single round of the USMCA negotiations took place in Kentucky or Oklahoma.

Additionally, while Ms. Craft claims that she always received approval from her travel, records show that she spent at least 11 days out of the country without State Department approval. Should she be confirmed as Ambassador of the U.N., I think it is very fair to say that if an international crisis erupts, we might more likely find her in Kentucky than New York City.

Ambassador Craft’s absences represent a total abdication of her responsibility as the head of the U.S. Embassy in Canada—one of our Nation’s most vital allies.

In one troubling instance, during the month when the Trump administration shut down the Federal Government, Ambassador Craft was in Ottawa for most of the month when the Trump administration shut down the Federal Government, but never in our Nation’s history has a nominee presented such an underqualified person to this critical post just for being a donor.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

### CLOSURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

### CLOSURE 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 Kelly Craft, 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, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BERNSTEIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MURKET), 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Alexander
Barbasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boman
Braun
Burr
Collins
Corry
Cotton
Cramer
Crage
Crus
Daines
Konz
Ernst
Fischer

NAYS—33

Baldwin
Bennet
Barrasso
Brown
Cassar
Cardin
Carper
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Daines
Feinstein

Barrasso
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy

Boozman
Blunt
Burr
Chambliss
Cochrane
Collins
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Cramer
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Konz
Ernest
Fischer

Perdue
Risch
Roberts
Romney
Rounds
Rubi
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Shelby
Sinema
McConnell
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Wicker
Young

Norton—10

Bennet
Booker
Cassar
Gillibrand

Bennet
Sanders
Isakson
Warren

Norton—10

Bennet
Booker
Cassar
Gillibrand

Bennet
Sanders
Isakson
Warren

Norton—10

Bennet
Booker
Cassar
Gillibrand

Bennet
Sanders
Isakson
Warren

Norton—10

Bennet
Booker
Cassar
Gillibrand

Bennet
Sanders
Isakson
Warren

Norton—10

Bennet
Booker
Cassar
Gillibrand

Bennet
Sanders
Isakson
Warren

Norton—10
The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the Norquist nomination, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Norquist nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider the Jordan nomination be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION
MORNING BUSINESS
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN WEEDEN
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today I join my friend the majority leader in offering a heartfelt thank you, congratulations, and happy retirement to the principal of the Senate Page School, Ms. Kathryn Weeden. She leaves the Senate and the Page School after 26 years of illustrious service. In that time, she has transformed the lives of countless young men and women interested in the workings of government.

The Senate Page School is an institution unlike any other on Capitol Hill and very different from most schools in America. Every semester, some of the most accomplished young men and women come to Washington from across the country to learn about our government. In short order, they are thrown into a routine that includes classes early in the morning, classes late into the night, and a full-time job in the Senate in between. When you consider the additional demands of homework, getting acclimated to a new city, and new peers, you realize just how important it is for these young men and women to have someone they can trust, rely on, and go to for support and guidance. For the last 26 years, that person has been Ms. Weeden. With her at the helm, I have always had confidence that the Senate’s pages were getting the learning experience of their lives.

For the minds she has inspired, for the institution she has shaped, and for the nation she has served, I want to say thank you and my best wishes to Ms. Weeden. May others follow in the example of selflessness and civic duty that she has gracefully set.

TRIBUTE TO SABRA FIELD
Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, over a storied 50-year career, Sabra Field has established herself as a great Vermont artist. Her works have made hers a unique and highly sought-after brand, one which beautifully depicts Vermont’s landscape. Her prints, made by hand using woodblocks, are a premier example of how Vermonters harbor a deep commitment to creating and providing high-quality goods, made with passion. Her work has promoted Vermont, and I could not be more proud to recognize this acclaimed artist.

Sabra enrolled at Middlebury College in 1953 when she made woodblock prints in Vermont. "No one said I couldn't," she says, "and I was too naive to realize the odds." Born in Oklahomia and raised in neighboring New York, Sabra believes that her professional career began when she moved to Vermont. She recalled in a Vermont Digger article that, "Vermont was beautiful and Vermonters unpretentious, generous, and understood 'home occupation.' I was free to be me." This environment made Vermont an ideal work and home location for Sabra.

Sabra’s achievements are impressive. Her work has been featured on the cover of Vermont Life magazine. It is showcased in a stained glass window at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. It has been printed on 250,000 UNICEF Cards. And Sabra’s work was featured on 60 million postage stamps commemorating Vermont’s 1991 bicentennial. Sabra’s work has gained popularity for a deep commitment to capturing Vermont’s picturesque landscape.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

((From the Vermont Digger, July 7, 2019))

SABRA FIELD MARKS 50TH YEAR MAKING VERMONT ART
(By Kevin O’Connor)

EAST BARNARD—Sabra Field recalls the moment a half-century ago when she made her first woodblock print in Vermont. "I saw that great art is composed from nature," Field says of the easily reproducible medium. "I wanted to make art "seem like a noble calling."" But she yearned less to make "print art" than for a "true art book," which she discovered upon further schooling at Connecticut’s Wesleyan University.

"I was not an artist," Field says of the easily reproducible medium. "I wanted to spend all my time making images and I was willing to take the risk. I felt, in a sense, that I had no choice."

"Over the course of her career she has received any number of accolades, and has been variously described as 'the Grant Wood of Vermont,' 'the artist laureate of Vermont,' and as someone who 'has touched more lives than any Vermont artist in history.'" —Richard Saunders, a Middlebury College professor and director of its Museum of Art, wrote in the catalogue of the 2017 retrospective "Sabra Field, Then and Now."
RIVER is today the home of dozens of thriving businesses. No fewer than 25 of these businesses are run by women, and together they are the core of a vibrant, growing community.

Kim Souza, the owner of the consignment store Revolution, was one of the first business owners to move back to White River Junction. The first few years were tough, but with the support of her community, Revolution found its footing. Soon more businesses opened, and new life was breathed into the town.

Across the street, Julie Sumanis and Elena Taylor opened JUEL, a juice bar and café, in the ground floor of a new apartment building. In 2008, Leslie Carleton moved from nearby Norwich to open Upper Valley Yoga. Seven years later, Kate Gamble opened Open Door, another yoga studio.

The successes of these businesses did not come without challenges and difficulties, but their successes showcase the power of community, dedication, and, ultimately, community. In 2007, Kim thought Revolution would have to close its doors, until she found the backing of a local mother and daughter that allowed her to stay open. Upper Valley stage director of White River's Northern Stage theatre company, credits the community's support for keeping the company alive through challenging times.

Today, White River Junction has become a destination and a cultural center of the region. The surge of development brought on by pioneers like Kim continues to bring new people into the town, some feeling empowered to start businesses of their own, to shape their futures, and to make the community stronger. This is the very heart of the American dream. The future of Vermont rests with entrepreneurs of their state’s office to register a printmaking business.

Field soon met her second husband, Spencer, who became her business manager. But her work wasn’t always seen as marketable. The story behind her 1977 four-print "Mountain Suite." "Vermont Life requested a seasonal suite to sell, she recalls. "Then they declined to buy them."

The artist went on to distribute the images herself. The magazine has since folded. But log on to her website and you’ll see the passed-over prints remain in circulation for $250 each.

Field’s resulting career has been chronicled in two books—2002’s "The Art of Place" and 2004’s "In Sight"—and the 2015 documentary "Sabra." Middlebury College, for its part, has an archive copy of every one of her prints.

Field can share stories of private struggle as well as of professional success. She reclaims five decades to inking her first woodblocks, be it for a recent children’s book "How Many Go?" with Ben Carleton, or a coming nine-piece suite of prints she conceived after President Donald Trump’s election.

"I decided to look at it as a challenge and we couldn’t let him manipulate our emotions," she says of the Trump-inspired prints. As for exactly what they picture, she adds only: "They will be somewhat mysterious. But when you get it, you get it."

Field is marking her 50th year in Vermont with a special poster and open house at her East Barnard studio July 13 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with more information available on her website. The career highs that sustain me are not glitz and glamour by the standards of the wider world, but they confirm that I made the right decision and that this wonderful place is home," she says. "I’ve never fallen out of love with my medium. I couldn’t be happier otherwise."
But given what White River Junction looked like and felt like not so long ago, the pros seem to far outweigh the cons, and officials in the town of Hartford, where White River Junction is nestled, are thrilled with all the new businesses and tax revenue.

And as freight trains roll through the downtown regularly, blowing their horns, White River is not in danger of becoming a ghost town. More importantly, it still bristles at characterizing what has been called the "new" White River Junction, writing that the land where it sits "still belongs to the Abenaki tribe before settlers came along. Almost every single young girl who has asked questions about how to start a business," said Souza. "It felt like something was happening."

RECOGNIZING VERMONT'S MAGICIANS WITHOUT BORDERS

Mr. LEATHY. Madam President, when Lincoln, VT, resident Tom Verner performs magic shows for children in refugee camps, orphanages, and hospitals, he brings joy and laughter to the faces where it is most needed. In 2001, Tom and his wife, Janet Fredericks, co-founded Magicians Without Borders and have since performed in more than 40 countries, for more than 1,000,000 of the world's most vulnerable people. Magicians Without Borders is one shining example of Vermonters thinking outside the box and using their creativity to make the world a better place. It is with pride and appreciation that I recognize Tom, Janet and the Magicians Without Borders organization for their achievements.

Tom was a professor of psychology in 2001 when he embarked on a trip through the Balkans, performing magic shows in the refugee camps of Kosovo and Macedonia. The performances were so well received that upon returning to Vermont, Tom took a year off from his position at Burlington College to head up Magicians Without Borders. Since Tom's first trip, he and Janet have made eight trips each year, continuing to transform the lives of youth in at risk situations around the globe. Tom, Janet, and Magicians Without Borders have performed everywhere from the Sudan, to Colombia, from Ukraine to Bangladesh. They traveled to Thailand and Burma for a month of performances in the wake of a tsunami and performed statewide throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

In 2004, a series of shows at rural schools in El Salvador was met with such positivity that Tom was asked to teach a few magic tricks to the students. These impromptu classes turned into a unique, long-term education program geared toward increasing self-confidence, discipline, focus, and self-esteem. Tom, Janet, and Magicians Without Borders have now returned to El Salvador more than 30 times to entertain and educate these children who find themselves surrounded by terrible gang violence and abject poverty. The program has inspired young Salva- doran magicians to perform their own magic shows in orphanages, hospitals, and disaster areas and aspire to teach magic to other young people.

Due to their success in El Salvador, Magicians Without Borders expanded these education programs to Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and the United States. Two additional education programs have been implemented in India. I am proud to recognize the contributions Tom and Janet and Magicians Without Borders have made me so many communities across globe in the last 18 years. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an Addison Independent article titled "Lincoln Magicians Bring Joy to Refugees at the Border." It describes how Tom and Janet use magic to connect with those suffering at our southern border and how they have expanded their mission to use their creativity to educate and empower across the world.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

(From the Addison Independent, July 3, 2019)

LINCOLN MAGICIANS BRING JOY TO REFUGEES AT THE BORDER

LINCOLN.—Tom Verner and Janet Fredericks performed magic at the U.S.-Mexico border last December. Not the kind of magic that allows tired, hungry and fearful refugees to simply walk across the border to new lives in America. The Lincoln couple, working as Magicians Without Borders, staged a show of sleight-of-hand and humor designed to not only entertain, but also to provide a light of hope in dark circumstances.

"There was a teacher from the Hartford school district who did a magic show in the refugee camps. He left for his next camp, however, he could not walk, his father had carried him on his back—for more than 1,800 miles." That teacher, Sebastian, was not the only one who had tried to get away. "These refugees were arrested and detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in facilities that a growing number of experts, including Holocaust scholars, have compared to concentration camps. Performing at the border last year, and again this past March, has helped Verner and Fredericks better understand the issues these refugees face." "These refugees didn’t want to leave their homes," Verner told the Independent this week. "They’re fleeing murderous violence, political persecution, and grinding poverty, and they’re coming to the closest place where, as the Statue of Liberty says, they can breathe free.”

During their March trip, Verner and Fredericks met a six-year-old boy named Sebastian, whose family had fled Honduras. Because Sebastian has cerebral palsy and cannot walk, his father had carried him on his back—for more than 1,800 miles.

The conditions and political climate of the U.S. border are nothing, however, compared with those in Honduras, Sebastian’s father told Verner.

"It’s the kind of story the Lincoln residents have encountered over and over again—all over the world. Since founding Magicians Without Borders in 2002, Verner and Fredericks have traveled to more than 40 countries and performed for “over 1 million of the most forgotten people in the world.” Their mission is to entertain, educate and empower.

BEGINNINGS

In 2001 Verner, then a professor of psychology at Burlington College, was traveling through the Balkans, performing magic shows in refugee camps in Kosovo and Macedonia.

"It was a transformative experience," he said. Verner was in a Macedonian camp, which sheltered about 2,000 people, mostly Roma. Verner met a little girl named Fatima who became his "assistant" for the day. "We couldn’t understand each other’s lan- guages, but we understood each other," Verner said. When it came time for Verner to move on to the next camp, however, he couldn’t find Fatima. Verner was about to say goodbye when a border agent who had been assigned to "assist" Verner stepped in. When the agent didn’t return to his car, only to find Fatima hiding in the back seat. She
begg’d Verner to take her with him, but he could not.

Verner’s driver then suggested they visit Shutka, Macedonia, where the driver said was “clogged with refugees.” Within 10 minutes of their arrival in the main square more than 300 people had gathered to watch him perform, Verner said.

Afterward, he recalled, “a Roma woman who’d seen me multiplying things in my show, came up to me holding a five-dinar Macedonian coin asking for more money she said. She thought if I could make things multiply, why not money?”

Verner performed a trick producing a 50-dinar bank note equivalent of about 80 cents at the time—and the woman was genuinely thrilled.

After she walked away, two Roma men who’d asked Verner if he could produce visas to America. “They were completely serious,” Verner said. “As if I could wave a magic wand and Condoleezza Rice would suddenly sign the necessary paperwork.”

These and other encounters led to an epiphany for Verner, which he distills into a quote from fellow magician Harry Houdini—himself a refugee from Hungary: “In certain circumstances, magic not only amazes and amuses but it has the power to awaken hope that the impossible is possible.”

Upon his return to Vermont, Verner obtained a year’s leave from Burlington College to found Magicians Without Borders.

“That one year has turned into 18,” he said happily.

TEACHING MAGIC

In 2004, Magicians Without Borders (MWB) visited El Salvador, which was still reeling in the aftermath of a 12-year civil war that had been fought in large part by child soldiers.

The founder-director of the Salvadoran Rural Health Association was so impressed with Verner’s school performances that she asked him to teach some magic tricks to children participating in a program called “Barefoot Angels” (so named because many of the children participating in a program called “Barefoot Angels” (so named because many of the children had been working barefoot in a garbage dump). Verner readily agreed.

At the end of that daylong workshop, one of the students, 14-year-old Jaime Zumba, asked: “Do you speak Spanish?” Verner, who had had no return plans, hesitated, then said, “How about May?”

That moment, Verner said, changed the course of MWB. Since then, it’s visited El Salvador more than 30 times.

Soon, some of the children wanted to do more. “It’s not a turn a few magic tricks,” they were asking to teach to other children. As a result, MWB now has programs in Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

Two more programs have evolved in India, as well—one at a night-care shelter for the children of brothel workers who are trapped in the trade. “These were children who had been sleeping under mom’s bed while she was working,” Verner recalled soberly.

That program’s Hindi name, Prerana, translates into English as “Inspiration.”

DREAMS

“We’re not trying to teach them to be magicians,” Verner said. “We’re trying to build their confidence in themselves. What happens is that these kids start studying and performing, and something starts to happen, you start to see all these benefits. It awakens dreams.”

Verner spoke of children who’ve gone on to pursue studies in nursing, culinary arts and social work.

None of this would have been possible, however, without the generous support Verner and Fredericks have received over the years, both abroad and at home.

In the coming weeks, for instance, allies of MWB have scheduled two fundraising events at Bixby on July 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., then give a brief talk about their work.

An event on Aug. 1, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., will be geared toward adults: travel stories and performance history, with some magic woven in.

Verner hopes MWB can make multiple trips to the border in the future, in part because he knows what’s at stake. After all, even his own sources of inspiration have emerged from deeply, shockingly tragic circumstances.

Jaime Zumba’s enthusiasm in El Salvador 15 years ago may have changed the course of MWB, but the young man’s lived experience, like that of so many thousands who have fled their homes, is all too familiar in that part of the world and often inspires too little notice.

“It is not uncommon,” he once told Verner, “for me to walk over a decapitated naked body on my way to school.”

ARM’S SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress may obtain any information and make such investigations as necessary to determine whether the proposed sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

HON. JAMES E. RISCH, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, President pro tempore.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–35 concerning the Navy’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Canada for defense articles and services estimated to cost $44 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOVER, Lieutenant General, USA, Director, Enclosures.

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Canada


(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:


Non-MDE: Also included are spare cables and MIDS batteries; Link-16 mobile racks; diagnostic support tools; technical documentation; training and engineering technical support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.


(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed for Sale: To be Sold Sensitive.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 29, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Canada—Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS)—Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS)(5)

The Government of Canada has requested to buy one hundred fifty-two (152) MIDS JTRS (5) with Remote Power Supply. Also included are spare cables and MIDS batteries; Link-16 mobile racks; diagnostic support tools; technical documentation; training and engineering technical support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $44 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the defense capability of a ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress and a contributor to military, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world.

Canada intends to upgrade its current inventory of CF–18 Aircraft, CC–130J, and the Royal Canadian Air Force’s Ground Stations with the purchase of these MIDS JTRS (5) terminals to be fully interoperable with U.S. and allied forces to support and compliment joint operations in a net-enabled environment; have modernized electronic protection and secure, jam-resistant wave forms; and be capable of improved Link-16 message exchange and information fidelity including support to advanced weapon employment; Canada will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors for MIDS JTRS are Viasat, Incorporated, headquartered in Carlsbad, CA and Data Link Solutions, headquartered in Cedar Rapids, IA. The Government of Canada is expected to negotiate an offset agreement with the principal contractors, in accordance with Canada’s Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy, before signing the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA), but details are not known at this time.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of additional U.S.
Government or contractor representatives to Canada. However, it is anticipated that engineering and technical support services provided by the U.S. Government may be required on an interim basis for training and technical assistance. There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

**TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–35**

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology

1. The Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS) Joint Tactical Radio (JTRS) is a software defined radio. The MIDS JTRS Programmable Secure Information Security Architecture Module (PSISAM) is Critical Program Information (CPI). The PSISAM is embedded in a MIDS JTRS Shop Replaceable Unit (SRU) and contains the information security hardware and cryptographic keys necessary to operate the terminal. MIDS JTRS contains embedded COMSEC and is capable of processing up to TCG/SECRET information. Each MIDS JTRS contains an embedded SRU that is UNCLASSIFIED Controlled Cryptographic Information (CCI). When a terminal is operating on the host platform it is classified up to the level of data being transmitted.

2. It is technologically advanced to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures to U.S. systems, which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that Canada can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale supports the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives as outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for re-export and export to Canada.

**ARMs SALES NOTIFICATION**

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–30, concerning the Air Force’s proposed prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision states that, in the case of notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**DEFENSE SECURITY**

COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–40 concerning the Navy’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt for defense articles and services estimated to cost $554 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER, Lieutenant General, USA, Director, Enclosures.

**TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–40**

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Egypt.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–40 concerning the Navy’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt for defense articles and services estimated to cost $554 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER, Lieutenant General, USA, Director, Enclosures.

**DEFENSE SECURITY**

COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–35, concerning the Air Force’s proposed prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision states that, in the case of notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**ARMs SALES NOTIFICATION**

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision states that, in the case of notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**DEFENSE SECURITY**

COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–30, concerning the Air Force’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of India for defense articles and services estimated to cost $670 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER, Lieutenant General, USA, Director, Enclosures.

**TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–30**

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of India.
July 30, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S5189


(12) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: C-17 follow-on support includes spare and repair parts; support equipment; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documents; support and test equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force IN-D-QAC.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: IN-D-SAC, IN-D-SAE.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 26, 2019.

(iv) No known offset agreements proposed in conjunction with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the Purchaser and the prime contractor.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the ROK.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

All defense articles and services in this transmittal have been approved for release and export to the Republic of Korea.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intent to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HON. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–48 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for the sale of Airframes and support and test equipment estimated to cost $950 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director,
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–48

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment $0 million. Other $950 million. Total $950 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Republic of Korea has requested to purchase items and services for follow-on support to the RQ-4 Block 30 Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) program. Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); program management; training for pilots; maintenance; logistics and communications personnel; depot and organizational level maintenance; minor modifications and upgrades; spares and repair/return parts; operational flight support; program analysis; publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistical services and support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.


(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KS–D–SAD.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 29, 2019.

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:
Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of 60 contractor representatives to Pakistan to assist in the oversight of operations as part of the Peace Drive F-16 program. There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

**ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION**

Mr. RISCH, Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room 224, Dirksen Senate Office Building.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**POLICY JUSTIFICATION**

Thailand—Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicles

The Government of Thailand has requested to buy sixty (60) Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicles (ICVs); and sixty (60) M2 Flex .50 cal machine guns. Also included are spare parts, Basic Issue Items (BII), Components of End Items (COEI), Additional Authorized List (AAL) (specific items for operations and maintenance), Special Test Equipment (STTE), technical manuals, OCONUS Depreciating Service, M6 smoke grenade launchers (4 per vehicle) and associated spares, AN/VAS–5 Driver’s Vision Enhancer (DVE), AN/VIC–3 vehicle intercommunications system, contractor provided training and Field Service Representatives (FSR), and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $175 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve security of a Major Non-NATO ally in INDO-PACOM which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the region.

The Stryker vehicles will increase Thailand’s capability to defend its sovereign territory against traditional and non-traditional threats by filling the capability void between light infantry soldiers and heavy mechanized units. Thailand will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor for the Stryker vehicle is General Dynamics Land Systems, Sterling Heights, Michigan. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any permanent additional U.S. Government or Contractor representatives to Thailand.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISUSSANCE OF LETTER OF OFFER PERSUAsION TO SECTION 36(b)(1) OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT**

The proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by protecting U.S. technology through the continued presence of U.S. personnel that provide 24/7 end-use monitoring.

Congress required 24/7 monitoring of the advanced F-16AM/AR in the original LOA, which is carried out by the Technical Security Teams (TST) at Shahbaz and Mushaf Air Force bases. The TST exists to protect sensitive U.S technology through 24-7 observation and reporting. TST members are not authorized to train Pakistan Air Force (PAF) service members or perform maintenance.

The proposed sale of this support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor is Booz Allen Hamilton Engineering Services LLC, Fairborn, Ohio.
frequency and near-term digital radio systems. The Stryker is deployable by C-130 aircraft and combat capable upon arrival. The Stryker is capable of self-deployment by highway and into the Interior. It has a low noise level that reduces crew fatigue and enhances survivability. It moves about the battlefield quickly and is optimized for close, complex, or urban terrain. The Stryker leverages non-developmental items with common subsystems and components to quickly acquire and field these systems. Stryker is UNCLASSIFIED.

2. The AN/VAS–5 Driver’s Vision Enhancer (DVE) is a compact thermal camera providing armored vehicle drivers with day or night-time visual awareness in clear and/or adverse vision (fog, smoke, dust) situations. The system provides the driver a 180 degree viewing angle using a high resolution infrared sensor and image stabilization to reduce the effect of shock and vibration. The viewer and monitor are ruggedized for operation in tactical environments. The system is UNCLASSIFIED but considered SENSITIVE technology.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to compromise the use of the basic hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Thailand subscribes substantially to the same degree of protection for the technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale supports the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives as outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Thailand.

**NOMINATION OF DANIEL HABIB JORJANI**

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, today I wish to give notice of my intent to object to any unanimous consent agreement regarding Senate Executive Calendar No. 367, the nomination of Daniel Jorjani to be Solicitor at the Department of the Interior. Recently released documents reveal that, during Mr. Jorjani’s confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he knowingly gave misleading and untruthful testimony about the Department’s Freedom of Information Act—FOIA—policy.

Department officials appear to have created a policy with regard to the Freedom of Information Act allowing political appointees to delay and thwart the release of information to the public. Worse still, when I asked Mr. Jorjani about this policy, he told me it didn’t exist.

Attempts by political appointees at the Department to delay, stonewall, and otherwise inhibit public and congressional oversight are completely unacceptable. This sort of rank political interference with government accountability runs contrary to the very basis of our form of government.

On February 28, 2019, the Department issued an updated version of its formal “Awareness Review” policy, which outlines the Department’s review process for FOIA document productions. However, based on documents obtained through multiple FOIA requests, it appears the Department has a supplemental process for document productions that has not previously been made public.

Mr. Jorjani appeared before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on May 2, 2019, for his confirmation hearing to serve as the Department’s Solicitor. During Mr. Jorjani’s hearing and in written testimony, the Committee was told shortly thereafter, he told me this supplemental awareness review process did not exist.

Currently, the Department’s inspector general is conducting a review of Interior’s FOIA policies. In addition, I have asked the U.S. Department of Justice to look into whether Mr. Jorjani perjured himself before the committee.

I cannot condone the movement of Mr. Jorjani’s nomination. Therefore, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to consider Mr. Jorjani’s nomination.

**VOTE EXPLANATION**

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 231 on overriding the veto, shall the Joint Resolution S.J. Res. 36 pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding. On vote No. 231, had I been present, I would have voted yea to override the veto.

I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 232 on overriding the veto, shall the Joint Resolution S.J. Res. 37 pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding. On vote No. 232, had I been present, I would have voted yea to override the veto.

I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 233 on overriding the veto, shall the joint resolution S.J. Res. 38 pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding. On vote No. 233, had I been present, I would have voted yea to override the veto.

I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 234 on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona. On vote No. 234, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture.

I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 235 on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Peter D. Welte to be U.S. District Judge for the District of North Dakota. On vote No. 235, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture.

**150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MADAWASKA, MAINE**

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Town of Madawaska ME. Located in Aroostook County, our State’s northernmost region, Madawaska is in the heart of the St. John River Valley, the center of our rich Acadian culture. I am honored to continue the grand tradition of industrious and caring people who have made Madawaska such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

Madawaska has a fascinating history. For thousands of years, the St. John River Valley has been the home of the Maliseet Tribe. French explorers, led by Samuel de Champlain, first visited the area in 1604 and established friendly relationships with the Native Americans.

In 1785, French-speaking Canadians fleeing persecution in British Canada journeyed up the St. John River in search of liberty. They marked the spot of their landing with a large wood daniel cross in August is a highlight of their own hard work, the settlers created a prosperous community that laid the foundation for the vibrant Acadian culture that is so important in Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and as far away as Louisiana.

Following the American Revolution, the region was the scene of a decades-long border dispute between our new Nation and British Canada. Although the bloodless Aroostook War did not result in armed conflict, it was a period of great tension and uncertainty, with both sides seeking control of the increasingly valuable timberlands. As the national governments of Great Britain and the United States negotiated a peaceful treaty, the province of New Brunswick laid claim to the disputed area. On July 4, 1827, a band of pro-American settlers declared the independence of the Republic of Madawaska with its own flag and the intention of joining the United States. In response, the Maine Legislature established the Territory of Madawaska in 1831, creating what was called the world’s biggest town, with an area of more than 4,000 square miles. The border dispute was settled by treaty in 1842. Peace was maintained between the United States and Canada. Settlement to the region increased greatly, and in 1869, the town of Madawaska was incorporated.

Today, more than 80 percent of the town’s residents speak French, and they continue to uphold the Acadian traditions of great food, music, and dance, and of close-knit families and lasting friendships. The annual Acadian Festival in August is a highlight of the year and a fulfilling celebration of this great heritage.
To my Franco-American friends, it is a pleasure to congratulate you on this landmark anniversary. Across the generations, you have worked hard and worked together to create a community that combines your rich heritage with the values that define our State and country.

Mr. President, the celebration of Madawaska’s 150th anniversary is not merely about the passing of time, it is about human accomplishment. We celebrate the people who pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LARRY ROBERTSON

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize my friend Larry Robertson, a dedicated servant to the great people of West Virginia. After 20 years, Larry will be retiring from his post as executive director of HospiceCare, in my hometown of Charleston, WV. As a lifelong resident of the State capital city, Larry dedicated his career to caring for those in his area. He hasn’t moved around much, with his office only a mile or two down the road from the fill station his father worked at when he was just a boy.

After graduating from George Washington High School, Larry stuck around the Kanawha River Valley and enrolled in Morris Harvey College, which is now known as the University of Charleston. With his bachelor’s degree complete and after earning a master’s in accounting from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies in 1976, he set his sights on ways to give back to the community that had already given him so much. This commitment led Larry to take a job as a controller for the Blue Cross Medical Plan in Charleston.

From this point on, Larry would spend the entirety of his professional life committed to providing financial support and administrative services to not-for-profit organizations in the healthcare field. In the past 20 years, HospiceCare has flourished under Larry’s leadership, providing over 300 jobs and services to 16 counties in West Virginia. Larry and HospiceCare also provide the community with an avenue to give back to those in need, garnering hundreds of volunteers throughout the years. There is an old saying that says there is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer, but I believe Larry’s “Hospice Heart” is even stronger.

Larry has also been instrumental in the foundation and the success of West Virginia’s first inpatient hospice center, the Hubbard Hospice House. This project started out with only enough space and staff to accommodate 12 residents, but has grown exponentially under the vision of Larry and his dedicated team. By the end of this year, the Hubbard Hospice House operation will be able to house 56 beds in several locations across central West Virginia. I became familiar with hospice during the last stage of my parents lives. The support and dedication they give to their patients is a wonderful lifeline for families and caregivers. I am incredibly indebted to Larry and his staff for their professional services. Hundreds of families in Kanawha County and the surrounding area feel the same and share the same appreciation for the care hospice gave their family members. Thank you, Larry, for your dedication to building such a quality healthcare provider for end of life care that is so highly regarded throughout the State and region.

Larry will now have more time to spend with his grandchildren, watch the West Virginia Mountaineers, and work on his golf game, but the lasting effects for what he did for our State will continue on for generations to come. I wish Larry all the best in his retirement, and to make a difference in his community with his one-of-a-kind attitude and generous heart. It is truly an honor to call you friend and fellow West Virginia.

RECOGNIZING CAREY, IDAHO

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, along with my colleagues Senator James Risch and Representative Mike Simpson, I congratulate the city of Carey, ID, on its centennial.

In 1884, just a few years after the first settlers arrived in the area, a school was built next to James Carey’s Post Office. Homes, roads, and churches soon joined the landscape, demonstrating early on the characteristics that are readily associated with Carey today: selflessness, hard work, and determination to make their slice of Idaho neighborly and productive. By the time the residents of Carey got around to incorporating the town in 1919, a sense of community was already deeply rooted.

On July 20, 2019, the city of Carey celebrated its 100-year anniversary of its establishment with special events, including a parade, music, rodeo, and other activities. This picturesque community in Blaine County, ID, is in a beautiful area rich in history and extraordinary people. The area has a deep legacy of sheep herding and cattle ranching, and is home to remarkable Idahoans, including pioneers, ranchers, producers, conservationists, writers, and leaders. Among them was the late, former Idaho secretary of state Pete Cenarrusa, a beloved public servant and veteran, who ran a successful sheep operation with his wife of 66 years, Freda.

Pete is Carey’s most famous son. In Idaho, Pete’s legendary achievements are well known. He was a member of the 1940 University of Idaho NCAA national championship boxing team, served as a World War II fighter pilot, and he holds the record for Idaho’s longest serving elected official at 52 years. One validating experience exemplifying Pete’s political will and influence occurred in 1948 when he convinced President Harry Truman to visit his hometown of Carey and dedicate the Carey Airport, which, according to some accounts, was built in just one day—a story that is reflective of a proud and dedicated public servant and committed townsperson. Pete Cenarrusa and Carey, ID, are synonymous among most in Idaho, each possessing their own distinct legacy, despite being deeply-entwined, that has contributed mightily to our State’s history and success.

The residents of Carey have much to celebrate. In addition to building a welcoming community settled in an amazing part of our great State, recreational opportunities abound, including skiing, fishing, hiking, biking, and hunting. Past and present-day Carey residents have developed Carey into a community built on a wealth of resourcefulness and good will with an eye toward how to further grow and make progress for the betterment of its residents.

Congratulations to the residents of Carey on 100 years of accomplishments, principal among them building a lovely town where people can live full lives. If this is a suitable, primary measure of a successful community, you have more than succeeded. We wish you well for centuries to come.

RECOGNIZING THE GREENBRIER MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM COMPETITION TEAM

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the members of the Greenbrier Middle School STEM Competition Team from Evans, GA: Jordan Epstein, Emily Forshee, Kendall Schneller, Carissa Veriato, and Sam Weinstein, as well as their teacher, Mr. David Phillips.

Last October, the team competed in the STEAM competition at Augusta University. The team, the only one built, and launched a rocket that was powered by water pressure and carrying a chicken egg. The rocket successfully landed in the landing zone that was only 30 feet in diameter. The team won grand prize in that competition for middle school engineering, and received an invitation to the International Young STEM Maker Competition at Lingnan University in Hong Kong. They were the only American team to have received an invite.

The team worked to design a house that was powered by water as well as a new concept for electric vehicles. Out of 111 teams from around the globe, Greenbrier was invited to make a presentation for their work. On top of that, the team’s faculty leader, Mr. David Phillips, was awarded second place in the Best STEM Teacher competition.

These bright young people and the teachers who guide them have made the State of Georgia and all of America very proud. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Phillips and all members of
the Greenbrier Middle School STEM Competition Team for their incredible achievements. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING EMPIRE AIRLINES

Mr. RISCH, Madam President, Idaho’s entrepreneurs are passionate individuals who consistently innovate and provide high-quality products and services. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Empire Airlines as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for August 2019. Located in Hayden, Empire Airlines is an international air carrier and heavy maintenance repair station with decades of experience and a history of success.

In 1977, Nick Chenoweth and Vic Walters founded Clearwater Flying Service, which later became Empire Airlines. Neither Chenoweth nor Walters were pilots, nor had they any experience running an airline. A third partner, Mel Spedle, joined the company just 2 months later as flight instructor and manager. Early jobs for the business included ambulance, charter, flight instruction, and airline startups.

Over the years, Empire steadily grew but never lost the try-anything, go-anywhere spirit embodied in its motto. Empire now has an aerospace division to provide state-of-the-art maintenance for aircraft, as well as an unmanned division, which provides drone services to help clients solve problems and reach goals. Empire Airlines also provides consulting services to help others jump-start their airline operations.

Empire Airlines strives to be a valued member of the community, supporting various charities and causes, including drug-free high school graduation parties in the area and numerous other events. What might be most impressive is Empire celebrates the many employees who have reached 25 years with the company by giving them a place in the timeline of the company’s history posted publicly on its website.

Empire Airlines’ success is a prime example of Idaho’s entrepreneurial spirit: Dare to dream, look at things differently, never give up, and when opportunity calls, answer with “We can do that.” The State of Idaho is proud to be home to innovators, hard-working entrepreneurs like Nick, Vic, and Mel, and all of those at Empire Airlines. The entire Empire family shows how one big idea and a dedication to hard work can lead to small business success. I would like to congratulate Tim Komberec and all of the employees at Empire Airlines on being named the “Idaho Small Business of the Month” for August 2019. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.

TRIBUTE TO BETH ANNE MALONEY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, today I would like to recognize Ms. Beth Anne Maloney of Hampton, NH, and celebrate her well-deserved retirement after 31 years of service to the students in that community as a school nurse.

After beginning her nursing career in 1984, Beth joined the staff of Centre Elementary School in Hampton in the fall of 1986. Centre School serves roughly 350 prekindergarten through grade 2 students and has the distinction of being the oldest public school in the State of New Hampshire. Beth was the school’s first full-time registered nurse and she has overseen the modernization of the school’s health services.

Over the years, Beth connected with thousands of students while carrying out her daily duties of assessing health, conducting vision and hearing screenings, and acting as a first responder. She developed particularly close relationships with students who had chronic conditions that required specialized care and management, including epilepsy, allergies, and asthma. Over time, she gained significant experience assisting students with type 1 diabetes, who often require daily nursing assistance with their diet, blood sugar monitoring, and medication.

Beth was actively engaged in developing care plans for these students that would minimize interruptions to their daily schedules, and she continuously trained her fellow staff members to prevent and respond to diabetic emergencies.

In addition to her nursing duties, Beth was a tireless advocate for students in need of health-related services, which could range from immunizations or a new pair of glasses to specialized care for untreated conditions. She maintained numerous relationships with local medical providers willing to help the families of students in need. Beth also took on a number of charitable causes and frequently organized the school’s annual Thanksgiving food drive in partnership with the local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

I thank Beth for her dedication to keeping our young people healthy and her service to the students, parents, and staff, who make up the Centre School community. I know these values will continue to guide her future endeavors. Please join me in honoring an outstanding Granite Stater, Beth Maloney.
EC-2146. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Joining Deposit Receivers” (RIN9996–AF04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2146. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary and Certain Interests In, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds” (RIN9996–AE88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2147. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 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” (RIN9996–AT59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2148. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; MA; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 Ozone Standard” (FRL No. 9996–99–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2149. 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; MA; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 Ozone Standard” (FRL No. 9996–99–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2150. 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; TN; Updates to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Chattanoogaine” (FRL No. 9997–38–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2151. 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; WI; Title V Operation Permit Program” (FRL No. 9997–36–Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2152. 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 Proclamation of Implementation Plans; Oklahoma” (FRL No. 9996–98–Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2153. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Minor Changes to Air Quality Implementation Plans; Redesignation of the Missouri Portion of the St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO–IL 2012 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 9996–98–Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2154. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Business Data Services in an Internet Protocol Environment, et al.” (WC Docket Nos. 18–141, 18–143, and 05–29) (FCC 19–56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2155. A communication from the Trial Attorney, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 207; Electronic Stability Control Systems” (RIN9997–AE01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2019, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-123. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives, by the State into organ transplant practices in the People’s Republic of China, and to call for the prosecution of those found to have engaged in such unethical practices; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, extensive and credible reports have revealed mass killing of prisoners of conscience in the People’s Republic of China, primarily prisoners associated with spiritual based and religious belief systems related to Falun Gong, but also other religious and ethnic minority groups, in order to alleviate organ shortages in transplant practices in the People’s Republic of China, and to call for the prosecution of those found to have engaged in such unethical practices; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Resolved, that the Senate hereby approves the resolution of the House of Representatives, Concurrent Resolution No. 1, 115th Congress, respecting the People’s Republic of China to immediately end the state-directed organ transplantation system, which is “an industrial-scale, state-directed organ transplantation system, controlled through national policies and funding, and implicating both the military and the health care industry”;

Whereas, China’s Liver Transplant Registry System indicated that more than 25% of cases were emergency transplantations, for an organ was delivered within 10 days or even hours. Wait times for non-emergency liver transplants were usually quoted in weeks. Most patients in other countries have to wait years for a transplant.

Whereas, the Chinese government claims that 90% of China’s organ transplant sources come from executed prisoners. However, the number is estimated to be 10% annually since 2002 and is far less than the number of transplants taking place. The government has never acknowledged the sourcing of organs from prisoners of conscience; and

Whereas, Falun Gong, a spiritual practice involving meditative “qigong” exercises and centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, became immensely popular in China in the 1990s, with multiple estimates placing the number of practitioners upwards of 100 million;

Whereas, in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the Falun Gong practitioners, including physical and mental torture, reflecting the party’s long-standing intolerance or large independent civil society groups; and

Whereas, since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained extra-legally in Chinese reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons, where torture, abuse, and implausible medical exams and blood tests on Falun Gong practitioners are routine; and

Whereas, the Freedom House reported in 2015 that Falun Gong practitioners comprise the largest portion of prisoners of conscience in China, and face an elevated risk or dying or being killed in custody.

Whereas, the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners, and have called on the Government of the People’s Republic of China to increase accountability and transparency in its organ transplant practices; and

Whereas, the killing of religious or political prisoners for the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an egregious and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to life;

Whereas, organ tourism to China should not be shielded by medical confidentiality, be open to monitoring, or be allowed to follow citizens to other countries, because China’s organs until 2018 was forbidden to conduct investigations into organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience, both past and present: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Missouri Senate, One-Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, do concur in the above-mentioned resolution; and

Resolved, That the members of the Missouri Senate, One-Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, do concur in the above-mentioned resolution;

(1) Call upon the Government of the People’s Republic of China to immediately end the practice of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and explicitly from Falun Gong prisoners or conscientious objectors and members of other religious and ethnic groups;

(2) Call upon the Government of the People’s Republic of China to immediately end...
the 17-year persecution of the Falun Gong, and the immediate release of all Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience;
(3) Call upon the President of the United States to undertake a full and transparent investigation by the United States Department of State into organ transplant practices in the People’s Republic of China, and calls for the prosecution of those found to have engaged in such unethical practices;
(4) Encourage the medical community of Missouri to engage in educating colleagues and residents of Missouri about the risks of travel to China for organ transplants so as to help prevent Missouri residents from unwittingly participating in murder in the form of forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience; and
(5) Agree to take measures to ban the entry of those who have participated in illegal removal of human tissues and organs, and seek prosecution of such individuals should they be found on the soil of Missouri; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President and Vice President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, the chair of the House Committee on Foreign Relations, and each member of Missouri’s Congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:
S. 398. A bill 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.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:
*Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years.
*Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2023.

Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET): S. 2313. A bill to authorize 2 additional district judgeships for the district of Colorado; to the Committee on Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY: S. 2314. A bill to prohibit social media companies from using practices that exploit human rights abuses and brainwashing to substantially impede freedom of choice, to require social media companies to take measures to mitigate the risks of internet addiction and psychological exploitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RINNAN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN): S. 2315. A bill to amend section 5712 of title 41, United States Code, to clarify the inclusion of volunteer directors of the United States Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide for whistleblower protection; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. WARNER): S. 2316. A bill to require a plan for strengthening the supply chain intelligence function of the National Supply Chain Intelligence Center, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. MURPHY: S. 2317. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to credit individuals serving as caregivers of dependent relatives with the conduct of such caregiving to Post-9/11 Era Veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN): S. 2318. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a continuous diagnostics and mitigation program in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida): S. 2319. A bill to allow the Coast Guard to consider the impacts of Hurricane Michael for the purposes of contracts for offshore patrol cutters; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida: S. 2320. A bill to authorize improvements to the conduct of United States foreign policy through a change in the supervision of the Peace Corps and transporting it from the status of “independent agency” to a subordinating agency within the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. KAINES): S. 2321. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the establishment of Negro Leagues baseball; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN): S. 2322. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARKES: S. 2323. A bill to require the screening of 100 percent of international mail and express packages entering the United States from high-risk countries to detect and prevent the importation of illicit fentanyl and other illicit synthetic opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. BOOHER): S. 2324. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments to encourage women members of the Armed Forces who are scheduled to retire from the Armed Forces during fiscal year 2020 to participate in the Women’s Health Transition Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS): S. 2325. A bill to establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of hard-line climate activists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. CARPER): S. 2326. A bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expedited coding and coverage of novel medical products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. KAINES): S. 2327. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for transfer of unused entitlements to the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN: S. 2328. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with oversight over the board of directors of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and to protect amateur athletes from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE): S. 2329. A bill to provide for the acquisition of non-Federal land for inclusion in the Fort Monroe National Monument in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL): S. 2330. A bill to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide for professional oversight by the board of directors of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and to protect amateur athletes from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY: S. 2331. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify the availability and appropriateness of training for local food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. HENRICH, and Ms. HIRANO): S. 2332. A bill to provide for the modernization of the electric grid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. HENRICH): S. 2333. A bill to provide for enhanced energy grid security, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. HIRANO): S. 2334. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish the 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board, and for other
purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. SMITH):
S. 2355. A bill to accelerate smart building development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):
S. 2336. A bill to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:
S. 2337. 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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MERCLEY):
S. 2338. A bill to prohibit the Export-Import Bank of the United States from financing the export of nuclear technology, equipment, fuel, materials, or other goods or services to Saudi Arabia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):
S. 2359. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for accreditation reform, to require institutions of higher education to publish information regarding student success, to provide for fiscal accountability, to provide for school accountability for student loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN:
S. 2360. A bill to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in the States of Illinois and Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CASEY):
S. 2361. A bill to establish protections for passengers in air transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. MCSALLY):
S. 2392. A bill to provide for requirements for data brokers with respect to the acquisition, use, and protection of brokered personal information and to require that data brokers annually register with the Federal Trade Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. ROY)
S. 2343. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and threatened species; to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to permit the taking of certain black vultures and ravens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PETERS:
S. 2344. A bill to establish a broadband infrastructure finance and innovation program to make available loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit for the construction and deployment of broadband infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS):
S. 24. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pay for preparatory courses for professional licenses and certifications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER:
S. 2346. A bill to improve the Fishery Resource Disaster Relief program of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARIDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTES MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DUREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GILLHANDED, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. JONES, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERCLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. STARR, Mr. Tester, Mr. VAN HOLLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. SINEMA:
S. J. Res. 51. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures for elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CORKS, TEZ MASTO, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DUREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLHANDED, Mr. GILLHANDED, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Ms. SANDERS, Ms. SHAHEEN, Mr. Tester, Mr. Van Holllen, and Mr. Schumer):
S. Res. 291. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has benefited from the United States increasingly, and that its activities are an inappropriate use of U.S. funds and do not serve the public interest, and recommending that the United States government take all necessary steps to withdraw its support for FIFA; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. Res. 292. A resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonians, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. Res. 293. A resolution designating September 25, 2019, as “National Lobster Day”; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS
S. 63
At the request of Mr. Whitehouse, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Perdue) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) were added as co-sponsors of S. 63, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform.

S. 120
At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 110, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a permanent extension of the lower income threshold for the medical expense deduction.

S. 133
At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 176
At the request of Mr. Cotton, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Ms. Blackburn) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 176, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax on estates, gifts, and generation-skipping transfers.

S. 296
At the request of Mr. Crapo, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Ms. Duckworth) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 293, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit, and for other purposes.

S. 296
At the request of Mr. Collins, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 340
At the request of Mr. Leahy, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) were added as co-sponsors of S. 340, a bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost, generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

S. 362
At the request of Mr. Wyden, the name of the Senator from New York (Ms. Schumer) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 394
At the request of Mr. Carper, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 394, a bill to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions.
At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 402, a bill to plan, develop, and make recommendations to increase access to mental and other health examinations for survivors by holding hospitals accountable and supporting the providers that serve them.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 427, a bill 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.

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURRET) were added as co-sponsors of S. 436, a bill to amend the XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 437, a bill to amend the Medicare Act of 1965 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill clarifying that it is United States policy to recognize Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 754, a bill to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested parties to promote fish conservation, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to re-store incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) 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.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to provide for a permanent extension of the enforce- ment instruction on supervision re-quirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals.

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MC SALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 978, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the work opportunity credit.

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strength-en penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture en-forcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1081, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to appropriate additional, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MARKY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) 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.

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUHNO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1168, a bill to amend the Higher Educa-tion Act of 1965 to ensure campus ac-cess at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

At the request of Mr. KAIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Ne- vada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), and the Sen-ator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1203, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the public service loan forgiveness program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1209, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to approval of abbreviated new drug applications.

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1236, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to clarify the composition of the membership of the Municipal Securities Rule-making Board, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1253, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine deliv-ery systems, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treat-ment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

At the request of Mr. JONES, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1279, a bill to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institu-tions.

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1341, a bill to adopt a certain California flammability standard as a Federal flammability standard to protect against the risk of upholstered furniture flammability, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BURRET, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. BERNSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1408, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to improve child care protections provided through interstate background checks.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1424, a bill to promote affor-dable access to evidence-based
At the request of Mr. King, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Ms. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1620, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt from inspection the slaughter of animals and the preparation of carcasses conducted at a custom slaughter facility, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Cantwell, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) were added as cosponsors of S. 1703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Blumenthal, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1715, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to all Gold Star Families in recognition of their sacrifice and service to the United States.

At the request of Mr. Heinrich, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1750, a bill to establish the Clean School Bus Grant Program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1784, a bill to provide for the issuance of a Stamp Out Elder Abuse Semi-postal Stamp.

At the request of Mr. Moran, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Risch, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Cortez Masto) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2258, a bill to amend the Federal and State Technology Partnership Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Perdue, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Lankford) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2263, a bill to modify the Federal Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify the definition of agricultural commodities, and for other purposes.
At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) were added as cosponsors of S. 2291, a bill to require the newly created, federally assisted, single-family houses and town houses to meet minimum standards of visitability for persons with disabilities.

At the request of Mr. Cramer, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) were added as cosponsors of 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.

At the request of Mr. Whitehouse, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

At the request of Mr. Barrasso, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) were added as cosponsors of S. 2302, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Brown, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. Hyde-Smith) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2310, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a competitive grant program to repair, improve, rehabilitate, or replace bridges to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridge crossings, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 13, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Feinstein, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen), the Senator from Maine (Mr. King), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Merkley), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) were added as cosponsors 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.

At the request of Mr. Graham, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Barrasso) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 252, supra.

**STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS**

By Ms. Collins (for herself, Mr. Peters, Ms. McSally, and Mrs. Shaheen):

S. 2322 A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. Collins. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce, on behalf of my colleague from Michigan, Senator Peters, in introducing the Animal Freedom from Testing, Experiments, and Research Act, known as the AFTER Act, to promote the adoption or retirement of animals used for research at Federal agencies. I would also like to thank Senators Shaheen and McSally, who are the original cosponsors of this legislation.

In fiscal year 2018, the Federal government experimented on approximately 50,000 animals for research purposes. The experiments occurred across twelve different Federal agencies and the animals used were mainly cats, dogs, monkeys, and rabbits. While tracking these animals following experimentation is challenging, once animals are no longer needed for research, they are often killed, since many agencies lack formal retirement or adoption policies. With that said, recent studies indicate that research animals who are adopted often thrive in new environments.

In 2013, led by Senators Harkin, Alexander, Cantwell and myself, the Senate passed the CHIMP Act, which allowed for the retirement of hundreds of primates that were formerly being used in the National Institute of Health (NIH) experiments. In addition, the Department of Defense, Veteran Affairs, and NIH recently enacted successful animal retirement policies. While I am encouraged by the Senate’s past work on primates, I urge all of my colleagues to join in support of this important bipartisan legislation, the Animal Freedom from Testing, Experiments, and Research Act.

By Mr. Durbin:

S. 2330 A bill to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in the States of Illinois and Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. Durbin. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 2340 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act.”

SEC. 2. CAHOKIA MOUNDS MISSISSIPPIAN CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI.

(a) Definitions. In this section—

(1) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term “historical park” means the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park established by subsection (b).


(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATES.—The term “States” means the States of Illinois and Missouri.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT. In general.—Subject to paragraph (2), in order to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of the Mississippian Culture, there is established, as a unit of the National Park System, the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in—

(A) Collinsville, Illinois;

(B) Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois; and
(C) St. Louis City County, Missouri.

(2) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—The historical park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land, or interests in land, has been acquired in accordance with subsection (d) to constitute a manageable unit.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(4) DONATION.—The boundary of the historical park shall be the boundary as depicted on the map.

(d) LAND ACQUISITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the Secretary acquires sufficient land under this subsection to achieve compliance with subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of the establishment of the historical park—

(A) donation;

(B) purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds; or

(C) exchange.

(2) LIMITATION.—Any land owned by the States or a political subdivision of 1 of the States may be acquired only by donation.

(3) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary acquires sufficient land under this subsection to achieve compliance with subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of the establishment of the historical park—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with—

(A) this section; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) sections 100101(a), 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 10201 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapters 1003 and 3301 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the States and political subdivisions of the States, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, Indian Tribes, and individuals—

(i) to develop, protect, and restore exceptionally significant historical or cultural and natural resources relating to the life of the Mississippian Culture within the boundaries of the park, subject to the condition that such an agreement shall provide for reasonable public access; and

(ii) to conduct research relating to the Mississippian Culture.

(B) COST-SHARING.—

(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out under this paragraph shall be not more than 50 percent.

(ii) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this paragraph may be in the form of—

(I) in-kind contributions; or

(II) goods or services fairly valued.

(3) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park.

(B) CONTENT.—The general management plan shall include—

(i) the Mississippian Culture;

(ii) the Osage Tribe; and

(iii) the Heartlands Conservancy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 291—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION SHOULD IMMEDIATELY ELIMINATE GENDER PAY INEQUITY AND TREAT ALL ATHLETES WITH THE SAME RESPECT AND DIGNITY

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLUBUCAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. Res. 291

Whereas the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (referred to in this preamble as “FIFA”) awarded $400,000,000 to the 32 teams that competed in the 2018 Men’s World Cup, but only awarded $30,000,000 to the 24 teams that competed in the 2019 Women’s World Cup;

Whereas FIFA awarded $38,000,000 to the 32 teams that competed in the 2014 Men’s World Cup, but only awarded $15,000,000 to the 24 teams that competed in the 2015 Women’s World Cup;

Whereas FIFA awarded $35,000,000 to the 24 teams that competed in the 2018 Women’s World Cup; and

Whereas FIFA awarded $35,000,000 to the 32 teams that competed in the 2019 Men’s World Cup;

Whereas FIFA awarded $358,000,000 to the team that won the 2015 Women’s World Cup;

Whereas FIFA awarded $38,000,000 to the team that won the 2019 Women’s World Cup;

Whereas FIFA awarded $4,000,000 more in prizes to each team that lost in the first round of the 2018 Men’s World Cup than to the team that won the 2019 Women’s World Cup;

Whereas FIFA awarded $358,000,000 to the 32 teams that competed in the 2014 Men’s World Cup, but only awarded $15,000,000 to the 24 teams that competed in the 2015 Women’s World Cup;

Whereas FIFA awarded $35,000,000 to the team that won the 2014 Men’s World Cup, but only awarded $2,000,000 to the team that won the 2015 Women’s World Cup;

Whereas FIFA awarded $34,000,000 to the 32 teams that competed in the 2010 Men’s World Cup, but only awarded $10,000,000 to the 16 teams that competed in the 2011 Women’s World Cup;

Whereas FIFA awarded $30,000,000 to the team that won the 2010 Men’s World Cup, but only awarded $2,000,000 to the team that won the 2011 Women’s World Cup;

Whereas the 2019 Women’s World Cup tournament garnered an estimated 1,000,000,000 viewers worldwide;

Whereas the 2019 Women’s World Cup highlighted the need to eliminate the existing gender pay disparity in prize award structure in athletic competitions that has persisted for decades;

Whereas the unfair and unjust prize award allocation system used by FIFA sends a terrible message to women and girls around the world about the value of their contribution to sports;

Whereas, in 2007, Wimbledon finally implemented an equal prize payment structure for all athletes, regardless of gender; and

Whereas gender should not determine the amount of a prize award that a person or team receives in an athletic competition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Fédération Internationale de Football Association to immediately eliminate gender pay inequity and to treat all athletes with the respect and dignity those athletes deserve;

(2) supports an end to the unfair and unjust practice of gender pay inequity in the workplace, including athletic competitions and related prize awards;

(3) urges all other local, State, Federal, and international organizations to eliminate gender pay inequity; and

(4) instructs the Secretary of the Senate to submit a copy of this resolution to the President of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier this month, fans across the country—and around the world—watched as the U.S. Women’s National Team made history, winning its second consecutive World Cup title, and fourth title overall. The players, coaches, and support staff of the Women’s National Team are role models to athletes young and old, male and female. They played through the tournament with the tenacity, skill, and commitment that is the hallmark of any champion.

These women—world class athletes—have consistently demonstrated their dedication to excelling in the sport and to representing our nation on the world stage. Their success on the soccer field is remarkable in itself, but many of these women have used their voices to speak out and speak up against a glaring disparity that disadvantages them, and countless women across our country and around the world: equal pay.

This is not a new issue, and it’s shameful that it is one that has not been rectified. What the players of the U.S. women’s soccer team want is pretty simple: to be treated no different than their counterparts on the men’s team. Earlier this year, the players filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation, arguing that disparities in pay between the men’s and women’s teams constitute discrimination on the basis of gender. But even if this lawsuit improves U.S. Soccer pay practices, much of the pay disparity will remain, due to policies of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

For example, FIFA awarded $38 million to the winner of the 2018 Men’s World Cup, but only awarded $1 million to the U.S. women’s team for their win this year. Men’s teams also earn more from FIFA for losing a World Cup than women’s teams.

Today I am reintroducing a resolution that I first introduced in 2015, after the U.S. Women’s National Team won its third World Cup. This is a simple, straightforward, and commonsense resolution. I am calling on FIFA to immediately eliminate gender pay inequity and treat all athletes with the same respect and dignity, regardless of gender. Yet in 2015, Senate Republicans...
Whereas the 2018 Department of State Human Rights Report documented torture and abuse by Cameroonian security forces, including extrajudicial killings and killings of suspected Anglophone separatists by security forces, and violations of freedoms of expression and assembly;

Whereas the Department of State echoed, emphasizing that electoral irregularities "created an impression that the election was not credible or genuinely free and fair";

Whereas members of the Boko Haram insurgency in Cameroon's Far North region since 2014, marked recently by a June 2019 attack on security forces in Far North Cameroon that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, have documented the excessive use of force by Government of Cameroon security forces against Cameroonian civilians living in the Anglophone regions, including the burning of villages, the use of live ammunition against people demonstrating, torture, and sexual abuse;

Whereas some Cameroonian diaspora organizations in the United States and Cameroonian-based civil society organizations are working to address the needs of Cameroonian internally displaced persons on the northwest and southwest regions of the country and refugees in Nigeria;

Whereas some Cameroonian internally displaced persons are working to address the needs of Cameroonian internally displaced persons on the northwest and southwest regions of the country and refugees in Nigeria;

Whereas the United States National Commission for Refugees reported that it had registered roughly 36,000 Cameroonian refugees from the Anglophone regions in Nigeria as of April 2019;

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Whereas some Cameroonian diaspora organizations in the United States and Cameroonian-based civil society organizations are working to address the needs of Cameroonian internally displaced persons on the northwest and southwest regions of the country and refugees in Nigeria;

Whereas Cameroon's Far North region has created an atmosphere of fear and persecution among the residents of the region, particularly among the Muslim population, leading to numerous deaths and injuries;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, have documented the excessive use of force by Government of Cameroon security forces against Cameroonian civilians living in the Anglophone regions, including the burning of villages, the use of live ammunition against people demonstrating, torture, and sexual abuse;

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Whereas some Cameroonian diaspora organizations in the United States and Cameroonian-based civil society organizations are working to address the needs of Cameroonian internally displaced persons on the northwest and southwest regions of the country and refugees in Nigeria;
Cameroon responsible for upholding the rights of all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs, political views, or the regions in which they reside;

4. (A) the Government of Cameroon to—
   (i) create a credible, inclusive, good, and full-fault effort to work with religious, cultural, and community leaders in the Anglophone regions to engage in meaningful dialogue and address grievances and seek nonviolent solutions to resolve the conflict, including possibly involving an independent mediator in such negotiations;
   (B) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge; and
   (C) engage with government officials to thoroughly investigate and prosecute all individuals who have been involved in torture, kidnapping, and extortion; and

5. (A) ensure that any security operations are conducted in accordance with international human rights standards, including efforts to ensure security forces only use force under appropriate circumstances;
   (B) respect the rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge; and
   (C) engage with government officials to thoroughly investigate and prosecute all individuals who have been involved in torture, kidnapping, and extortion; and

6. (A) respect the rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge; and
   (B) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge;

7. (A) promote the rule of law through more transparent accountability mechanisms;
   (B) engage with government officials to thoroughly investigate and prosecute all individuals who have been involved in torture, kidnapping, and extortion;

8. (A) respect the rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge; and
   (B) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge;

9. (A) respect the rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge; and
   (B) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge;

10. (A) respect the rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge; and
    (B) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge;

11. (A) respect the rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge; and
    (B) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge;

12. (A) respect the rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge; and
    (B) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonians, including political activists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily detained and detained without trial or charge;

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 931. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO ENACT OFFSETTING SAVINGS.

(a) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER BUDGET DEFAULTS IS AWARDED.

(1) the projected amount of the reduction in outlays for direct spending for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2019, from (A) beginning on the day after the date of enactment of this Act; and
    (B) ending on December 31, 2019; from

(b) SEQUESTRATION.

(1) IN GENERAL.

(2) The Director shall calculate and the President shall order a sequester for each of fiscal years 2020 to 2029 in accordance with the subsection.

(2) CALCULATION.

(1) The Director shall calculate and the President shall order a sequester for each of fiscal years 2020 to 2029 in accordance with the subsection.

(3) ORDERS.

(1) (A) the terms “direct spending” and “sequestration” have the meanings given such terms in section 256 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(c));
    (B) in general.

(1) The President shall order a sequester for each of fiscal years 2020 to 2029 in accordance with the subsection.

(2) (A) the terms “direct spending” and “sequestration” have the meanings given such terms in section 256 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(c));
    (B) in general.

(2) The President shall order a sequester for each of fiscal years 2020 to 2029 in accordance with the subsection.

(3) the term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and

(3) the term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and

SA 932. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SA 932. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:
Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. 
This Act may be cited as the “Cut, Cap, and Balance Act”.

SEC. 2. DEBT LIMIT INCREASE. 
(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date described in subsection (b), the limitation in effect under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be increased by $500,000,000,000.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The date described in this subsection is the earliest of the date on which the Archivist of the United States transmits to the States S. J. Res. 3 (116th Congress) in the form introduced on January 4, 2019, S. J. Res. 5 (116th Congress) in the form introduced on January 24, 2019, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or a similar amendment to the Constitution of the United States if the amendment requires that total outlays not exceed total receipts, contains a spending limitation as a percentage of the gross domestic product, and requires that tax increases be approved by a two-thirds vote in both Houses of Congress for their ratification.

SEC. 3. LIMIT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING. 
(a) POINT OF ORDER.—
(1) In general.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to receive or consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would cause the amount of on-budget spending for any of fiscal years 2020 through 2029 to exceed the amount specified in paragraph (2) with respect to such fiscal year.

(2) Caps.—The amount specified in this paragraph is the following:

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(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—
(1) Senate.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate 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 (a).

(2) House of Representatives.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the House of Representatives only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) POINT OF ORDER PROTECTION.—In the House of Representatives, it shall not be in order to consider or order that waives the application of subparagraph (A).

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 11 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to 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 ARMED SERVICES
The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on pending nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of General John E. Hyten, USAF, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

NATIONAL LOBSTER DAY
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 293, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate agreed to.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 293) designating September 25, 2019, as “National Lobster Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 293) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s Record under “SubMITTED RESOLUTIONS.”

AMENDING TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, TO REDEFINE THE EASTERN AND MIDDLE JUDICIAL DISTRICTS OF NORTH CAROLINA
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, during the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 929, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 929) to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 929) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 929

The bill (H.R. 1250) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following Calendar bills, en bloc: Calendar Nos. 85 through 89, 121 through 124, and Calendar No. 162.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc, Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building

The bill (S. 347) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the “Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building”, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 347

The bill (H.R. 540) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 779 Ayrault Road in Fairport, New York, as the “Louise and Bob Slaughter Post Office”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Congressman Bill Carney Post Office

The bill (H.R. 828) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the “Congressman Bill Carney Post Office”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building

The bill (H.R. 829) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the “Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office

The bill (S. 1272) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1272

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

SECTION 1. ELIZABETH BUFFUM CHACE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”.

Richard G. Lugar Post Office Building

The bill (S. 1759) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 456 North Meridian

shall be known and designated as the “Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building”.

Louise and Bob Slaughter Post Office

The bill (H.R. 540) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 779 Ayrault Road in Fairport, New York, as the “Louise and Bob Slaughter Post Office”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONGRESSMAN BILL CARNEY POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 828) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the “Congressman Bill Carney Post Office”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ARMY SPECIALIST THOMAS J. WILWERTH POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 829) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the “Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office

The bill (S. 1272) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1272

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

SECTION 1. ELIZABETH BUFFUM CHACE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”.
Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the “Richard G. Lugar Post Office Building”, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1759

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

SECTION 1. RICHARD G. LUGAR POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) Designation.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 456 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the “Richard G. Lugar Post Office Building”.

(b) References.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Richard G. Lugar Post Office Building”.

HENDERSON VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1198) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, Nevada, as the “Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CAPTAIN ROBERT L. MARTIN POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 1449) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3033 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, as the “Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RYAN KEITH COX POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3305) 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”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 31; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Pittman nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 9:51 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 30, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

MICHAEL T. LIBURDI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA.

PETER D. WELTE, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA.

JAMES WESLEY HENDRIX, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

SEAN D. JORDAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DAVID L. Norquist, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT FOR ABILITY ONE PROGRAM

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding work of the AbilityOne Program, which empowers Americans with disabilities and helps bring them into the workforce. The AbilityOne Program promotes exemplary public-private partnerships to employ Americans with significant disabilities, including veterans and the blind. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Americans with disabilities is more than double the rate for those without disabilities. To address this disparity, the AbilityOne Program creates high-quality employment opportunities for disabled Americans and empowers them to fully participate in the workforce and their communities. AbilityOne helps employ more than 45,000 disabled Americans, helping them develop the skills and work experience they need to access public and private sector jobs, achieve greater independence, and lead productive, fulfilling lives. And the program helps the federal government support these individuals and empower them through employment.

Last March, I had the opportunity to see the success of AbilityOne Program firsthand in my district when I visited TRI industries in Vernon Hills, Illinois. TRI is a non-profit that manufactures ink and toner cartridges for the federal government. TRI provides education, training, and jobs to individuals with disabilities in my district. Touring their facility and speaking with the staff, I saw the great opportunities AbilityOne provides and the impact this program can have on the lives of Americans with disabilities.

On behalf of my constituents with disabilities, I rise to salute the significant contributions of the AbilityOne Program, and I support all persons committed to developing and advancing employment opportunities for the blind and Americans with other significant disabilities.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to congratulate Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, as the congregation joins together in celebration of the church’s 100th anniversary. The parishioners along with Mount Zion’s pastor, Reverend William R. Collins, will be commemorating this momentous occasion with a celebratory banquet on Friday, August 2, 2019, at the Chateau Banquet Center in Merrillville, Indiana.

In 1919, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church became the first African American Baptist church to be established in the city of Hammond. Throughout the years, numerous remarkable pastors helped to build the church’s leadership and expand its congregation, along with the services and programs offered to the community. In 1945, Reverend A.R. Burns became pastor of Mount Zion, a position he held for an astonishing fifty-three years. Pastor Burns accomplished many great things during his tenure at Mount Zion, and he was determined and passionate about his service. Under Pastor Burns’ leadership, in 1949, the current church structure was completed at 1047 Kenwood Street, and it became known as “The Friendly Place of Worship.” Pastor Burns worked to secure safe housing for the elderly and was able to accomplish the construction of the Reverend A.R. Burns Mount Zion Pleasant View Plaza, with the first tenants moving in by 1983. In addition, Pastor Burns marched for civil rights with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and he supported the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Pastor Burns passed away in 1999, but he will be forever remembered for his faithfulness to his congregation.

In 1998, Reverend William R. Collins became the leader of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Under Pastor Collins’ outstanding direction, Mount Zion has become a cornerstone of the community, providing a food pantry and outreach program, offering vacation bible school, summer camp ministry, and various religious retreats, and being heavily involved in the Interfaith Federation. Under Pastor Collins’ leadership, the church has also undergone numerous cosmetic improvements, and the membership has increased exponentially. Reverend Collins and the congregation of Mount Zion have been a true blessing to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Hammond, Indiana, on its 100th anniversary. The members and church leaders have dedicated themselves to serving others, especially to those most in need, and they are an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF HENRY RODRIGUEZ MARTINEZ, SR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Henry Rodriguez Martinez, Sr. of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Martinez was a father, veteran and a local civil rights leader that was committed to bettering our community through his public service. Born on June 15, 1928 in Eagle Ford, Texas. Martinez was a pillar of strength and perseverance for our community.

He was raised in the Ledbetter Eagle Ford area of Dallas and attended Crozier Technical High School prior to serving in the Army where he earned the rank of Private First Class. He was also a proud father and husband. Martinez married Eufemia Paredes Martinez in 1955 and the couple had eight children. For over fifteen years, Martinez served the Dallas Fort Worth-area through his work for the Martinez Courier Service and Dallas Power and Light.

Martinez was also an active member of the West Dallas community. Throughout his life and through his service as the president of Ledbetter Neighborhood Association, Martinez improved local transit across the community and the quality of life for those that lived there. Martinez spent his life making sure that communities of color had a seat at the table and a voice in the room—his most notable accomplishment being that he was a staunch advocate in the fight to guarantee better representation for people of color in the Dallas City council.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my thoughts and prayers to Mr. Martinez’s family and community. West Dallas is losing a fighter and advocate for their community. His spirit and accomplishments will never be able to be replaced.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ACT

HON. GRACE MENG
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the need to weave the narrative of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities into the greater American story. There is no doubt that Asian Americans are the fastest growing population in the United States, and our community is becoming an increasingly powerful and visible force in all aspects of American life. From entertainment to medicine; from academia to entrepreneurship; from social justice to innovation—our community has made immeasurable contributions to every facet of our nation. But, too often, our community is excluded or forgotten in history. It is why today, I am introducing the “Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act”. With the rise of recent exclusionary rhetoric and policies, it is crucial to remember our collective past now more than ever. The past shapes who we are, and it also strengthens how we move forward.

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.
From the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Japanese American internment camps; from the racially motivated murder of Vincent Chin to the first wave of Southeast Asian refugees on our shores—these historical events have affected the way we deal with policies today. Never before have the events and stories we hear today left us out of history books. A commission to study the potential creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American history is the first step in elevating the API story profile and ensuring that Americans of all ethnicities and generations can learn about the impact our community has had in our nation’s values, traditions, culture, and history.

Madam Speaker, I firmly believe the story of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders is sorely misunderstood and creating a national museum would ensure that our experiences—both good and bad—are recognized by all Americans. Museums are gateways for Americans and the world to see the United States’ rich history, challenges it overcame, and potential for greatness. Establishing this commission is the first step toward the creation of a national API museum. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

LOREN KANNENBERG RETIREMENT

HON. RON KIND
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate the career of my friend and longtime District Chief of Staff, Loren Kannenberg. Loren was with me from the beginning, helping set up my district operation in 1997 during my first term in office. Last month, Loren retired after serving the people of Wisconsin’s Third Congressional District for over 22 years.

Loren was born and raised in Wausau, Wisconsin. After attending college at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Loren was a science teacher at St. Patrick’s School in Onalaska. He went on to receive a Masters in Educational Administration from Winona State University and later served as principal at St. Patrick’s School until 1997 when he joined my team.

Loren has always been a leader in the La Crosse community and active in local politics, at one point serving as the chair of the La Crosse County Democratic Party. He was also a longtime member of the La Crosse County Health and Human Services Board where he looked out for his neighbors and the less fortunate in our community. Additionally, he served on the Redevelopment Authority with the City of La Crosse, helping guide many projects such as the new bus depot in downtown La Crosse and the Riverside North Project which is now under development.

An avid golfer, Loren has been a trusted playing partner over the years and has a great appreciation for the green landscapes we are blessed with in Wisconsin. Loren is also a talented musician and a member of the La Crosse Chamber Chorale. Above all, Loren is highly regarded by all those who know him as a family man and friend.

Loren has always been a steady hand in overseeing my district staff’s casework and outreach activities with the goal of providing the best possible services to my constituents. Loren was at my side as we traveled across Wisconsin and visited communities from Platteville to Menomonie and everywhere in between. Public service was in his blood—his father, John Kannenberg, served 24 years as the mayor of Wausau, Wisconsin and 10 years on the Wausau City Council. Loren made an enduring impact on his colleagues and the constituents of Wisconsin’s Third Congressional District. I thank Loren for all his hard work and dedication to public service, and I wish him all the best on a long and happy retirement.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF
HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I support the Bipartisan Budget Caps and Debt Limit Deal as an important step to protect Americans and our economy. This agreement secures an additional $100 billion for crucial services to promote the well-being of our residents while rejecting the offsets proposed by the current Administration. This agreement permanently ends the harmful cuts to non-defense programs that support the health, housing, education, child care, and security of Americans via the discretionary sequester. It allows continued investment in veterans, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, environmental sustainability, the National Institutes of Health, and the fight against drug addiction sweeping the nation, including my state of Illinois. This agreement also protects the full-faith and credit of our government by raising the country’s debt limit.

As we know, the debt limit was reinstated to $22 trillion on March 2, 2019, imposing a legal limitation on the government’s ability to issue debt and pay any federal obligations that directly impact the American people. A suspension of the debt limit until July 31, 2020 is a critical win for the Democratic Leadership that protects our national economy.

The sequester and restrictive appropriations under Republicans have eroded federal support for programs that help children and families in this nation and internationally, cutting domestic and international programs by 4.6 percent between FY2010 to FY2019 after inflation. Constituents in my District have felt these cuts, and this deal helps rebuild these important services. In my district with a population of approximately 100,000 residents, 30.8 percent of children live in poverty and 15 percent live in extreme poverty, 25 percent of taxpayers are low-income working parents, and 18.7 percent of adults in my District over 18 have income below the poverty level. These Chicagoans rely on an array of programs to work and care for their families. According to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, in 2016, my district alone had a veteran population of over 41,978 people. These returning heroes and public servants deserve a government that serves them and assists with resources so that they can live the American dream.

This is not a perfect agreement, but it moves our country forward in very important ways. I promise to work to end the mandatory sequester. The mandatory sequester cuts federal dollars from vital programs including Medicare, home visiting, the Social Services Block Grant, and Safe and Stable families—programs that provide health care for the elderly, services for the disabled, and child abuse prevention programs.

Former National Security Advisor Colin Powell once said “Leadership is about solving problems.” I rise today to commend and support Speaker PELOSI on her leadership and problem-solving skills to rebuild our investment in veterans and families via this budget agreement. I support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING KENNEDY’S ANGEL GOWNS

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kennedy Milan Wilson. Although she never took a breath of air outside her mother’s womb, her memory now brings hope and healing to so many families. On August 17, 2019, we honor her, as we do every day. Kennedy would have been 10 years old this year. However, her legacy lives on and she continues to change lives.

The “Kennedy’s Angel Gowns’’ organization helps bereaved families who have suffered the loss of a child before, during, or shortly after birth. Beautifully handcrafted burial garments made from donated wedding gowns are provided along with other resources at no cost. In addition, the organization provides Cuddle Cots and Caring Cradles to local hospitals in the area.

Kennedy’s Angel Gowns continues to raise awareness of infertility, miscarriage, early neonatal loss, stillborn, and infant loss. Many people who experience this loss feel very alone and isolated. The organization’s mission is to break the silence and offer help.

This year, Hampton Roads will have its first-ever “Butterfly Suite,“ which will officially open at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital the week of her 10th Birthday. This dedicated grieving room will be equipped with a Cuddle Cot or Caring Cradle, allowing the family to spend more time with their infant.

I commend Kennedy’s parents for channeling their grief to help others through the healing process by creating this resource.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOEL STEPHEN FASS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I honor the life of Joel Stephen Fass, a brilliant legal mind, community advocate, and my dear friend.

Mr. Fass, along with his law partner Michael Colodny, formed the firm Colodny Fass in Broward County, Florida in 1974. Mr. Fass
practiced in the areas of personal injury, commercia litigation, and civil rights. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Fass served as the Kings County prosecutor in Brooklyn, New York and successfully pursued the rights of countless personal injury victims, including abused and neglected elderly individuals.

Joel was a letter-writer for our community’s elderly. He served as past president of the Broward County Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors, and was recently named to the “Broward Senior Hall of Fame.” I have known many people who worked as tirelessly as Joel did to ensure seniors were safe and able to maintain their dignity and wellbeing.

Joel was always on the front lines in responding to the critical needs in our community. In 2010, Mr. Fass was bestowed the “Ending Abuse Award” by Broward Jewish Family Services for his recognition to urge advocacy of shared gender responsibility in maintaining domestic tranquility among families in the Jewish community.

A resident of Weston, Florida for 19 years, he chaired the City of Weston’s first Charter Review Commission and subsequently served as a Weston Charter Review Commissioner. Joel was a distinguished veteran who served honorably in the United States Army and embodied the best of what it means to give back to your country and community. My heart goes out to his wife Susan, children, and grandchildren whom he adored and were the light of his life.

Joel was a selfless, compassionate, and a tireless advocate for others in Broward County. He will be profoundly missed but never forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MILTON QUON

HON. TED LIEU
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and work of Mr. Milton Quon, who passed away at the age of 105 on June 18, 2019 in Torrance, California. Milton was the oldest of eight children and the eldest child, but the ex-sary of Eagle Alloy, a local business that

was declared historic landmarks.

including business cards, chopstick instruc- in Los Angeles’ Chinatown and other products, ty. He will be profoundly missed but never for- gotten.

was designing menus for various restaurants in Los Angeles’ Chinatown and other products, including business cards, chopstick instructions, and signage, some of which eventually were declared historic landmarks.

Disney Studios hired Milton in 1939 as its third Chinese-American animator; he worked on the “Waltz of the Flowers” and “Arabian Dance” segments of Fantasia and

was one that was nurtured by an atmosphere of pastel.

Even in his elder years, Milton’s work was recognized time and time again: in 2012, as one of five Chinese-American artists presented at the Vincent Price Art Museum in Monterey Park. May his art have the golden spike award from the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California; and in 2017, with the Historymakers award for Excellence in the Arts from the Chinese American Museum.

Milton is survived by his widow, Peggy; children, Mike, Jeff, Tim, and Sherrill; and four grandchildren. May his memory live on in the timelessness of his art and his contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE ALLOY’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL HUIZENGA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Eagle Alloy, a local business that proudly serves the West Michigan community.

Eagle Alloy is a company that provides various types of advanced metal castings to a variety of customers all over the nation. Since 1979, the Eagle Alloy headquarters and its manufacturing facilities have all been located in Muskegon, Michigan, and has become one of the largest private employers in the community.

The founders of Eagle Alloy, Mark Fazakerley and John Workman, are two individuals I proudly call close friends and have always held a customer-first attitude when running their business. In fact, Mark and John still work closely with their very first customer even after 40 successful years.

Safety and worker satisfaction are also key components to the Eagle Alloy workplace. Eagle Alloy will be celebrating an incredible 500,000 consecutive work hours with no accidents at a Christian and 40th Anniversary. In 2015, Eagle Alloy was awarded “Metal Master of the Year” by the American Foundry Society. A few years later in 2018, Eagle Alloy was honored as the “Michigan Manufacturer of the Year” by the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating John, Mark, and all of the employees and families of Eagle Alloy for 40 years of dedicated service to West Michigan and our country’s manufacturing base.

HONORING THE CITY OF PALMYRA

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Avis Michelle Fisher, a local gospel singer and community leader.

Born on May 31, 1964 to Rev. Albert Van Fisher and Verdell Fisher, Fisher’s musical talent soon shone in the Fort Worth community from the time she was five years old. Known as the musician who “could sing anything,” she led the choirs at Salem Baptist Church and Mount Olive Baptist church for over 30 years.

Fisher began music lessons near her home in Highland Hills when she was five years old and went on to perform in her first musical when she was just thirteen years old. Fisher attended elementary, middle, and high school while growing up in Fort Worth and was part
of an award-winning choir program at O.D. Wyatt High School where she graduated in 1982.

Fisher's lifelong commitment to gospel music was a beacon of light in the Fort Worth community. An accomplished singer, pianist and organist, Fisher was well known as a musician and a humanitarian across Dallas and Fort Worth. Alongside her leadership in several church choirs throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth community, Fisher contributed to a deep history of gospel performance in African American churches.

Our Weekly... hosted a talented musician, leader, and teacher in Avis Michelle Fisher which is why I would like to take this opportunity to honor her life and legacy in Fort Worth and extend my thoughts and prayers to all that have been impacted by her.  

REMEMBERING DR. GEORGE GEORGIEFF

HON. J. LUIS CORREA OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. George Georgieff, an American veteran and well-known orthodontist from Orange County, California.

Born on November 15, 1931, Dr. Georgieff grew up in Clairton, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry. After graduating, Dr. Georgieff nobly served his country in the United States Air Force as a Lieutenant in the Weapons Specialist Division from 1954 to 1956. After returning to civilian life, Dr. Georgieff expanded his career by attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, earning his Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1961. Dr. Georgieff then earned a Certificate of Orthodontics in 1963 from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Georgieff operated a private orthodontic practice from 1963 until 2012. In that time, Dr. Georgieff served more than 25,000 clients. Of that impressive client base, over 1,500 were surgical cases. Additionally, Dr. Georgieff was on staff at St. Joseph, a prestigious hospital in the City of Orange, from 1965 to 1984 as an oral surgery consultant and assistant in oral surgery procedures. A lifelong academic, Dr. Georgieff lectured on orthodontics across the United States, as well as in London, England; Sophia, Bulgaria; and Belgrade, Serbia on behalf of the American Association of Orthodontics.

In addition to his hands-on work in his practice, Dr. Georgieff also worked with various organizations to enhance the professional community of orthodontists in Orange County. Dr. Georgieff was a longtime member of the Orange County Dental Society, where he served as Program Director from 1970 to 1972 and the Press Relations Chairman in 1973.

Given his outstanding professional career, it is no surprise that Dr. Georgieff received numerous prestigious accolades. Dr. Georgieff became certified through the American Board of Orthodontics in 1977, becoming the second orthodontist in Orange County to earn this achievement. In 1981, Dr. Georgieff received the Man of the Year Award from the City of Hope Foundation for outstanding service to the community. In 1984, Dr. Georgieff was named the Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. Most significantly, Dr. Georgieff was named the top provider of orthodontic treatment for children receiving “Denti-Cal” in the State of California.

Dr. Georgieff lived a rich and vibrant life filled with countless professional achievements and personal fulfillment. Dr. Georgieff is survived by his wife, Joyce, as well as his three children, Stephanie, Evan, and Adam, and two grandchildren. Although numbers are likely higher given the barriers associated with disclosure, GBV is often used by armed actors as an intimidation tactic to exert power and control over the opposing side.

Gaps in services and humanitarian protection frameworks have made it difficult to adequately prevent GBV in humanitarian contexts and mitigate its impact. Humanitarian agencies are often underequipped to address GBV specifically or close gaps between services and accountability that have led directly to GBV, such as the exploitation of women in exchange for supplies by aid workers. To address this, the humanitarian donor community has begun investing in the building standards, guidelines, and capacities of humanitarian actors to better respond to the needs of women and girls in emergencies.

The Safe from the Start Act would support the State Department and USAID’s ongoing work to protect and prevent violence against women and girls in humanitarian emergencies by codifying it, and providing Congressional oversight over its implementation. I want to thank my colleagues, Representatives Chris Stewart, Lois Frankel, Mario Diaz-Balart, and Chrissy Houlahan for leading this bill with me. I urge the rest of my colleagues to support this bill and look forward to its enactment.

EXPANDING FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL OPIOID RESEARCH AND TREATMENT ACT

SPEECH OF HON. TROY BALDERSON OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3153, the Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment, or EFFORT Act. This bill is of particular importance to me, as I represent an area that has been devastated by the opioid crisis over the past decade, and I am privileged to speak today on the important of this bill.

In my home state of Ohio, the rate of opioid-related deaths is more than double the national average. In this regard, Ohio ranks as one of the top-five states with the highest rates of opioid-related deaths. What's more alarming, however, is the rate at which the number of opioid overdoses have increased: twenty-eight percent from July 2016 through September 2017. That's barely more than a year during which opioid use grew by nearly thirty percent. These statistics should terrify every parent, sibling, teacher, caregiver, and friend, because opioid addiction is not
confined to any one geographic, socioeconomic, or other type of demographic. Rather, this epidemic is ravaging communities all around our country.

How did this epidemic start? Let’s go back to 2012, when there were more opioid prescriptions in the state of Ohio than there were people. Prescriptions to opioid drugs, handed out like candy, and there was little-to-no regulation on these highly-addictive drugs. Someone could sustain a simple injury—say, to their knee or their back—perhaps even have surgery, and be prescribed highly-addictive opioids for their pain. With no oversight, Americans everywhere were slowly becoming addicted to these substances, with their tolerance levels increasing, therefore requiring them to take higher doses to experience the same level of pain relief. Of course, these drugs are not cheap. Often times, when the drugs become too costly or a prescription ran out, these now-addicted opioid users would turn to street drugs, such as heroin, to feed their addiction. In Ohio, four out of five heroin addicts began their drug use with prescription painkillers.

Often times, once an addiction starts, it’s near impossible to break the cycle. Truly, the best way to treat addiction is to stop it before it even starts. Of course, we know now that opioid addiction is completely preventable, and fighting this growing epidemic will take the work of many committed groups. This multi-faceted crisis needs the support of police departments, communities, families and schools, government at all levels, and the medical and science communities. That’s where the EFFORT Act comes in.

This critical piece of legislation will direct the National Science Foundation to study the effects of the opioid epidemic and will require this body to consult with the National Institute of Health—and vice versa—in their research of opioid addiction. I’m a firm believer that research is one of the most important tools in fighting illnesses like addiction. Of course, this is just one of many pieces in the vast puzzle of putting an end to the opioid epidemic. This bill is a step in the right direction, and we need to continue our efforts to fight this epidemic. I’m proud to cosponsor the EFFORT Act, and I thank my colleague from Virginia, Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton for introducing this critical legislation. I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 3153 so our country can better prevent opioid addiction.

Chief Lavoie has been a leading and respected voice in the Granite State advocating for the Safe Station Program and forming the Nashua Community Conversations on Race and Justice, which have enhanced relationships between police and Nashua’s diverse population and the community as a whole.

I commend Chief Lavoie on his retirement after three decades of work in public service. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s Second Congressional District, congratulations to Chief Andrew Lavoie for a well-deserved retirement. I thank him for his service and wish him the very best in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE ROBINSON WESTBROOKS FAMILY 109TH FAMILY REUNION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OP OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Robinson Westbrooks family who will be celebrating their 109th family reunion in Los Angeles, California on August 16–18, 2019. Each year, the Robinson Westbrooks family get together for the oldest ongoing registered family reunion in the United States.

It all started with Mr. John Bolin Robinson, Mrs. Dora Anne Westbrooks Robinson, and their youngest child, Leonard Wilbert Robinson, who all share a birthday of August 16. Their coinciding birthdays led to the tradition of getting the family together every third Sunday in August to celebrate family unity and the blessings of God. The first official Robinson Westbrooks Family Reunion was held on August 16, 1910 in Eclectic, Alabama, making this year the 109th celebration.

The Robinson Westbrooks family makes the most out of their annual family gatherings throughout the United States. They are registered at the United States Library of Congress.

This year the family celebrates their oldest family members, Mrs. Queenie Elizabeth Thompson-Hunter, age 93, of Detroit, Michigan, Mrs. Clara Dora Thompson-Smith, age 92, of Detroit, Michigan, and Mr. Charlie Anderson Brown, age 96, of Eclectic, Alabama.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, I extend best wishes to the Robinson Westbrooks family. I hope this tradition continues for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF ANDREW LAVOIE
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Lavoie who was Chief of the Nashua Police Department, for his service and leadership to the Department for 32 years, the last four and a half years as Chief.

Over the span of Chief Lavoie’s career, he has taken on numerous roles within the Nashua Police Department, whether it was attacking the opioid crisis from the law enforcement perspective by making many arrests or standing with his community to protect and serve.

HONORING CAPTAIN AARON HATTABAUGH AND OPERATION SENIOR SURPRISE

HON. ADAM KINZINGER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Aaron Hattabaugh, a retired captain and B–52 navigator, for taking part in the longest combat mission in Air Force history.

On January 16, 1991, Captain Hattabaugh and fifty-six other airmen aboard seven B–52G aircraft of the 596th Bombardment Squadron took off from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana on Operation Senior Surprise. However, those who took part named their mission Operation Secret Squirrel.

This was the United States’ first move to liberate Kuwait from Saddam Hussein. Using state of the art air launched cruise missiles, these brave airmen had one objective: to destroy Hussein’s strategic assets in Iraq and Kuwait. Over the course of this mission, the aircraft destroyed nearly all of the targets and blinded the Iraqi military to four ground forces, in turn saving countless American lives. Incredibly, these aircraft completed four in-air refueling maneuvers and covered 14,000 nautical miles in under 36 hours.

This year marks the 28th anniversary of “Operation Secret Squirrel” and each year, those involved in this historic mission gather to remember their piece of history made. In the longest mission since the Doolittle Raids on Japan, these aviators carried out their mission with honor and bravery.

Madam Speaker, those who served on this mission displayed true endurance and dedication to country in their actions. It is my honor to recognize Captain Hattabaugh and the fifty-six others who took part in this critical mission.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RANDY CORBIN, OWNER OF CORBIN COLONIAL CHAPEL, FUNERAL HOME, “MAYOR OF MADISON STREET”

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of my constituents, and a personal friend, Mr. Randy Corbin who migrated from Arkansas, came to Chicago and established a business and lived a wonderfully productive life.

Randy grew up in Gould, Arkansas, came to Chicago, attended Worsham College of Mortuary Science. Married his queen, Karen Kennedy and they raised two children, two sons Amell and Loren, two daughters Claressa and Syreeta. He served in the U.S. Army, and was honorably discharged in 1964.

Randy started his career as a janitor at AA Rayner Funeral Home and worked his way through the ranks with successive promotions. In 1977, Randy partnered with a friend, Luther Sparks and they started the Luther Sparks Funeral Home.

Unfortunately, Mr. Sparks died and Randy became the sole proprietor and the rest became history. Randy built a successful business, was generously supportive of community activities. He started other business ventures, provided leadership to the community and earned the title, “Mayor of Madison Street”. Randy was a member of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association, a leadership member of the Boy Scouts of America, he sponsored local basketball teams and students pursing education. He hosted school supply drives, donated volumes of supplies to youth and families throughout the year.

Regularly donated to churches and let ministries use Corbin’s Chapel for services. He supported by his wife Karen and their four children, his sister, fourteen grandchildren, five great grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.
BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF
HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, last week the Democrats helped secure a strong bipartisan budget agreement that includes suspending the debt limit until July 31, 2021. The measure ensures that we will avoid a default on the full faith and credit of the United States and can follow through on our financial obligations.

All of us were elected to help America’s working-class families. This agreement is another tool to help them. In particular, it sets the stage for responsible budgeting and ends sequestration. It also includes funding for an accurate census, veterans, Child Care development Block Grants, tools to address the opioid epidemic, and increases in NIH funding.

Extending the debt limit keeps our nation’s finances on stable ground—unlike what the Republicans did in 2011, 2013 and 2015. I applaud the Speaker and all our colleagues involved in crafting this measure, and I encourage everyone to support it. A ‘yes’ vote is responsible, provides certainty to our nation’s markets, and delivers stability to Americans’ retirement savings as well as our nation’s economy.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF KEN BEHRING

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of long-time Danville resident, Mr. Ken Behring.

Mr. Behring was born June 13, 1928 in Freeport, Illinois. He spent his youth on his family’s farm during the Great Depression. By twenty-one Ken had opened the doors to his first business, Behring Motors, a used car dealership in Monroe, Illinois. Six years later, Mr. Behring had grown his small dealership to have $1 million dollars in assets.

After relocating to Florida, Ken began working developing communities. By the early 1970s having cemented himself as one of the nation’s most successful developers, he moved to California and purchased a four-thousand-acre tract of land nearDanville. After donating almost half of the land to the Mount Diablo State Park, Ken molded the remaining 2,500 acres into the nationally renowned Blackhawk housing development. Ken’s design for Blackhawk helped establish the standard for upscale development design nationwide.

Eventually, Ken created additional developments resulting in over seven thousand new homes and contributing to the growth of East Contra Costa County.

In addition to Ken’s housing development career, he was an active philanthropist. Millions of Mr. Behring’s earnings have been donated to universities, museums and charities across the country, including the largest single donation ever to the Smithsonian Museums. In 2000, Mr. Behring founded The Wheelchair Foundation as a branch of the Behring Global Health and Education Foundation. In its first six years, the foundation provided wheelchairs to individuals in 144 countries and reached one million wheelchairs donated in 2015.

Ken Behring was a cherished member of the Contra Costa Community and he will be missed.

HONORING SANTA ANA ELKS LODGE NO. 794

HON. J. LUIS CORREA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 117th anniversary of the Santa Ana Elks Lodge No. 794 and the grand opening of their third Lodge.

The Santa Ana Elks Lodge was formed in 1902 by William L. Tubbs and several businessmen from the city. Mr. Tubbs was previously a member of the Lodge in Council Bluffs, Iowa before moving to Santa Ana.

On June 2, 1902, the Santa Ana chapter was granted dispensation by the Grand Lodge to form the Lodge. When he was installed as the first Exalted Ruler on July 14, 1902, Mr. Tubbs became the “Father” of the Santa Ana Elks Lodge. The Lodge was issued its Charter on August 14, 1902. The Lodge was first located in McFadden Hall until October 20, 1902, when they moved to the Odd Fellows Hall. The Lodge relocated to the Hervey Building at Fourth and Spurgeon Street on May 18, 1903. This is also where the first Flag Day observance was held on June 14, 1907. In September 1907, in need of room to expand, the Lodge bought a fifty-foot lot. On March 14, 1911 they moved to this location at Sycamore and Sixth Street. The Lodge remained there until April 2, 1961, when they opened a brand-new Lodge at 212 Elk Lane. The Lodge celebrated their 100th anniversary at this location in 2002.

Finally, in April of 2018, the Elks Lodge temporarily moved to downtown Santa Ana until the completion of their current location at 1751 S. Lyon Street. Exalted Ruler Dan Breece, his wife and First Lady, Sharon Breece, and his family members and guests included the incoming Grand Exalted Ruler.

The Santa Ana Elks Lodge is known as the “Mother Lodge” for all of Orange County and has a rich and unique history. Santa Ana Elks No. 794 are active members of the community. They host an annual dinner dance for Santa Ana and Tustin schools and fund raising for special needs students with their “Purple Pig” program.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent a community and I congratulate them on the opening of their new Lodge.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT ODON S. CARDENAS

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. CASTRO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of WWII Veteran, Retired Army Staff Sergeant Odon S. Cardenas. July 30, 2019 marks SSgt. Cardenas’ 100th birth year and I am proud to represent an individual who has dedicated his life to family, community, and country.

SSgt. Odon Cardenas was born on July 30, 1919 in Devine, Texas to Donaciano and Cecilia Cardenas. One of six siblings, his early life was spent as a Sugar Beet Farmer in Shakopee, Minnesota. On March 29, 1941 he enlisted in the United States Army in Ft. Snelling, Minnesota as Private First Class. After becoming Squad Leader, SSgt Odon Cardenas was assigned to the 172nd Battalion, Company C in California. Shortly after reassignment, the battalion deployed in November 1944 to the Mediterranean Theater of Operations of World War II in Germany.

While on the front lines of defense, Cardenas and his unit were attacked by German opposition. During the ambush, his company received heavy artillery fire. Approximately 24 hours into battle, he and a few others attempted to escape by crawling through the snow at night. However, he and several company members were captured by opposition forces and held in captivity at a Prisoner-of-War camp near Dusseldorf, Germany. After being detained for two weeks, SSgt. Cardenas and his fellow service members were liberated by the Americans and allied forces. Odon departed soon after in April 1945, receiving an honorable discharge in October 1945.

After the war, SSgt. Cardenas became a barber and auto mechanic. With his wife of 60 years, Maria Inez Valadez Cardenas, they raised 10 children along with 18 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren. Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent SSgt. Odon Cardenas and look forward to his 100th birthday. His lifelong dedication to our country can only be met with celebration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BRIDGES HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Bridges Home Rule Act. This bill would repeal a redundant 1997 federal law that makes it a crime for a person in the District of Columbia to obstruct any bridge connecting D.C. and Virginia. The District already had, and continues to have, its own local law prohibiting obstructing a bridge in the District. There is no federal law that prohibits a person in Virginia from obstructing a bridge or person in any state from obstructing a bridge connecting two states, and, fortunately, D.C. does not need a federal law to keep our bridges clear either.
This law is as offensive as it is redundant. It harks back to a time when a private group in D.C. attempted to block the 14th Street Bridge into Virginia, although there is no evidence that D.C. authorities failed to act. The District’s local criminal law prohibiting obstructing a bridge takes care of any obstruction occurring in the District.

Under the 1997 federal law, “whoever in the District of Columbia knowingly and willfully obstructs any bridge connecting the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia . . . shall be fined not less than $1,000 and not more than $5,000, and in addition may be imprisoned not more than 30 days.” Under D.C. law, a person may be subject to imprisonment and/or fines for “crowding, obstructing, or incommoding . . . [t]he use of any street, avenue, alley, road, highway, or sidewalk.”

The courts have long held that D.C. may repeal federal laws that predate the 1973 Home Rule Act (HRA) and apply exclusively in or to the District, but have not ruled on whether D.C. may repeal post-HRA federal laws that apply exclusively in or to the District. My bill would avoid any court challenge the District could face if it tries to repeal this 1997 federal law.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND L.S. WILSON
HON. MARC A. VEASEY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Reverend L.S. Wilson of the East Saint Paul Baptist Church, an important member of our community in Fort Worth, Texas.

Born on March 2, 1936, Pastor Wilson impacted our community in unique and profound ways. Pastor Wilson grew up attending Fort Worth public schools where he graduated from I.M. Terrell High School in 1955. He later went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Dallas Baptist University and a Master of Education Degree in Administration from Texas A&M University at Commerce.

Pastor Wilson began his ministry in 1971 and led several congregations in North Texas for over forty years. From Elam Grove Baptist Church in Mabank, Texas to Bethlehem Baptist Church in Bonham, Texas, Reverend Wilson was eventually called to become the Pastor of East St. Paul Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas in 2001 where he served until his death in 2019. Pastor Wilson took on many leadership roles in churches across the North Texas community where his legacy will never be forgotten.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my thoughts and prayers to the Pastor Wilson’s family and community. He was a man who always put God, family, and community first. He did so much for our Fort Worth community, and I want to give a special thanks to him for making our community a better place.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARBON COUNTY FAIR
HON. DANIEL MEUSER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Carbon County Fair.

Since its reestablishment in 1999, the Carbon County Fair has celebrated the best of our communities and our rich agricultural tradition. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the local Lion and Lioness Clubs for supporting this annual community event. For five days in August, the fair welcomes community members to a variety of exhibitions showcasing the area’s agricultural and industrial achievements. The fair brings neighbors together for exhibitions, fireworks, races, and the annual tractor pull. The Carbon County Fair plays an outstanding role in celebrating the importance of agriculture and industry in our communities.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania’s Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Carbon County Fair on twenty incredible years celebrating our communities. May this tradition continue for many years to come.

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

SPEECH OF
HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 693, the U.S. Senator Joseph D. Tydings Memorial Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2019 or the “PAST” Act.

Put simply, soring is the cruel practice of intentionally inflicting pain on a horse’s legs or hooves to alter the horse’s gait. This is done by applying caustic chemicals such as diesel fuel, and mustard oil to the skin, and inserting sharp painful objects into horses’ hooves to achieve an artificial high-stepping gait. It is all too commonly inflicted on horses that participate in Tennessee Walking Horse competitions.

As a former horse owner myself, I am deeply disturbed about the pain and suffering these majestic animals are put through. Soring is already prohibited by the laws of the United States. Congress passed the Horse Protection Act in 1970 to address the problem. What we are doing today is identifying gaps in the original law and fixing them.

No other category of horse show has fed on the past few years and urges the Coast Guard to begin preparing to oversee their use. A demonstration program will support the Coast Guard in conceptualizing how these new technologies will be used to support commerce in U.S. waters and how such vessels will be regulated. We cannot wait for these technologies to be fully matured before we contemplate their safe application in our waters or airspace. Again, I appreciate the inclusion of these provisions in the underlying authorization and support its adoption.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. TROY BALDERSON
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud original cosponsor of the Research and Technology Subcommittee’s Chairman Haley Stevens’ bill, the American Manufacturing Leadership Act because our nation’s economy relies on the manufacturing industry and must
priority policies that strengthen it. In my home state of Ohio, the manufacturing industry accounts for 16.6 percent of total output, and employs 12.5 percent of our workforce, or 690,200 employees. All told, the manufacturing produced $107.95 billion worth of output in Ohio in 2017 and continues to grow each day.

H.R. 2397 would strengthen our nation’s largest investment in advanced manufacturing—the Manufacturing USA Program—which has thrived in the past seven years since its creation and build on that success to strengthen our manufacturing workforce. This bill would reauthorize the successful Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation of 2014 and extend it to all agencies sponsoring centers for manufacturing innovation, allowing more of those that invest in manufacturing to benefit from this program. It would further strengthen the institutes’ role in advanced manufacturing workforce development—something I’m deeply passionate about—along with outreach to and inclusion of small- and medium-sized businesses, which are vital to a prosperous American economy.

H.R. 2397 also puts important checks, balances, and oversight into place by encouraging the program office to develop pilot programs for the institutes, as well as identify for and disseminate to them best education and workforce training practices. It would also expand Manufacturing USA’s authorities to collaborate with other agencies, including to develop network-wide performance goals. In addition, while this bill would authorize agencies to renew institutes for an additional period of funding, allowing those institutes to meet their ultimate goals, this would only be allowed following a rigorous review of the institute’s progress toward meeting measurable goals.

The manufacturing industry is a pillar of the American economy and drives many of the other industries that make up our country’s annual GDP. Without the manufacturing industry, the American economy would cease to exist. H.R. 2397 would expand on manufacturing programs with proven success and accelerate our nation’s progress in advanced manufacturing. Ultimately, this legislation leverages existing programs across the federal government to help Manufacturing USA Institutes achieve existing programs with proven success and accelerate their efforts. And the American economy would cease to exist.

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and memory of Kathy Teal. Kathy was born in Newark, N.J. and grew up in the Chicago suburb of Wheaton, IL. A certified midwife, she devoted herself to serving unwed mothers and children. Kathy was a founding member of both Birthright of Greeley and the Genesis Project of Northern Colorado, organizations dedicated to helping single mothers and their children. She spent her life advocating for policies that protected expectant mothers in Colorado and continually supported organizations that protect the sanctity of life, including the Weld County Right to Life Committee. I stand today in honor of Kathy Teal for always fighting to protect those unable to protect themselves. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my condolences to the Teal family and my gratitude to Kathy for her life of service.

HONORING MEIERHOFER FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY
HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly propose to recognize Meierhoffer Funeral Home and Crematory in St. Joseph, Missouri, as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

For one hundred twenty-five years and five generations, the Meierhoffer Family has been there for people. For grieving families, for widows and children, Meierhoffer Funeral Home has been there. The Meierhoffers, with kindness, empathy and a quiet presence are able to bring calm to the chaos of raw nerves and frayed emotions. They are able to help others make peace and help families begin the process of healing from a loss. People say that having a good funeral home is like having a good lawyer. You never want to have to call them, but when you do have to make that call, you are always glad that they are there. And all of St. Joseph, are eternally grateful that for over a century the Meierhoffer Funeral Home has been there.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Meierhoffer Funeral Home and Crematory for one hundred twenty-five years of serving the people of St. Joseph, Missouri. I am honored to have such a long-standing family business in the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri and to represent the Meierhoffer Family in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFEOF DANE LORENZETTI
HON. MARK DeSAULNIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of long-time Concord resident, Diane Lorenzetti. Diane, affectionately known as Miss Diane, was born in Concord, California in 1943 to loving parents Ettore and Emily Lorenzetti. While attending Holy Names College, Diane worked part-time as a pre-school teacher for the City of Concord. In 1974, she left the classroom and became the Director of the Concord Senior Center. Over the next 29 years, Diane worked tirelessly to ensure a pleasant and engaging experience for all visiting seniors. It is said that she made the center feel like a second home and challenged herself to remember the names of everyone she met. During her tenure as Director, Diane was an important and reliable figure in the Concord senior community.

As the executive producer of the Concord Senior Citizen’s Club, The Writing on America has thrived for the past 20 years. The program hosts an annual writing contest for the Vietnamese community to submit essays on their unique overseas experiences. The top winners of the contest are given a monetary award, but all approved submissions are published daily in Viet Bao and aggregated into a book available for purchase online. These stories attract more than 80,000 readers per year.

The Writing on America program became a tool of healing for the individuals sharing their stories and for the individuals who could relate to their experiences. It is also an archive of Vietnamese history in America, one that is filled with the grief of leaving one’s home country, an unremitting belief in the American dream, and the hope for happiness and prosperity. Over time, it has become a forum for celebrating the achievements and joys of the Vietnamese community.

HON. H. T. CORREA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Viet Bao Daily News for the 20th anniversary of the Writing on America program. Viet Bao Daily News introduced Writing on America twenty years ago, on April 30, 2000, which marked the 25th anniversary of the beginning of a new Vietnamese population in the United States of America.

In the face of adversity, the Vietnamese community in the U.S. has demonstrated commendable resilience and strength, building a home for themselves and laying a strong foundation for generations of Vietnamese Americans to come. Viet Bao, one of the most well-respected and widely read sources of Vietnamese American daily news, has become an integral part of this legacy.

Outside of being a reliable news source for the Vietnamese community, Viet Bao’s Writing on America program has fostered the stories of Vietnamese and Vietnamese American individuals traversing the negative impacts of the Vietnam War and the Vietnamese diaspora. The program hosts an annual writing contest for the Vietnamese community to submit essays on their unique overseas experiences. The top winners of the contest are given a monetary award, but all approved submissions are published daily in Viet Bao and aggregated into a book available for purchase online. These stories attract more than 80,000 readers per year.

The Writing on America program became a tool of healing for the individuals sharing their stories and for the individuals who could relate to their experiences. It is also an archive of Vietnamese history in America, one that is filled with the grief of leaving one’s home country, an unremitting belief in the American dream, and the hope for happiness and prosperity. Over time, it has become a forum for celebrating the achievements and joys of the Vietnamese community.
Viet Bao is an exceptional example of the balance between the preservation of the Vietnamese language and culture with the need to establish a strong presence in America. For the past twenty years, Viet Bao has been building a collection of the most heartfelt and humanizing stories of Vietnamese Americans, old and young, and I wish them success for many more years to come. Thank you for your commitment to enriching the lives and experiences of the Vietnamese community in the U.S.

HONORING WILLIAM E. “BILL” MCGONAGLE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of William E. “Bill” McGonagle, in recognition of his wonderful service, for over forty years, on behalf of the City of Boston and the thousands of families who reside in public housing in our City.

The son of Jeannette and Daniel McGonagle, Bill is the third of six children. A true son of South Boston, Bill spent his early childhood on Lennon Court in South Boston and the remainder of his childhood in the Mary Ellen McCormack housing development in South Boston (named after Speaker John McCormack’s mother). Bill attended the Gate of Heaven Grammar School and High School prior to his graduation from South Boston High School.

While Bill is a veteran, having enlisted in the Naval Reserves and attended University of Massachusetts at Boston, Bill has had the tremendous good fortune to be married to his wife Ellen for 47 years. They have been blessed with three children, Matthew, Mark and Alyson.

Bill started his career at the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) in 1981 as a member of BHA’s Department of Public Safety, where he worked to combat violence and drug abuse in public housing. His compassion and work ethic were quickly recognized by BHA Receiver Harry Spence and Bill was chosen to participate in a BHA-sponsored management training program, which included graduate-level management classes at the Boston University School of Social Work. Bill was quickly promoted from a public housing development manager to area director overseeing the management of BHA’s thirty-seven elderly and disabled public housing developments throughout Boston addressing the needs of thousands of seniors and disabled citizens.

Bill later became a highly respected assistant to then BHA Administrator Doris Bunte where he served as the liaison between the BHA and residents in the public housing developments in South Boston and Charlestown. Many resident leaders have noted that Bill had tremendous credibility and connected with many of the residents of his own upbring in public housing. His compassion and understanding have earned him the deep and abideing respect of the residents of public housing as well as the many political leaders who shared the responsibility for meeting the needs of residents. While there were some rough patches in the history of the public housing developments across Boston, Bill McGonagle has been the bridge from those troubled times today, when the revitalization of major housing developments is taking place all across Boston.

Bill was appointed Deputy Administrator on April 1, 1992. He served in that role for 17 years for three administrators: David Cortiella, Joseph Feaster, and Sandra Henriquez. And on June 11, 2009, Mayor Thomas M. Menino made one of the best decisions in his long career and appointed Bill as Administrator for the Boston Housing Authority. And later, in his infinite wisdom, Mayor Martin J. Walsh asked Bill to continue in that capacity as part of his administration, much to the joy of public housing residents across the City. Since becoming Administrator, Bill has been the driving force in the revitalization of many of the housing developments throughout the city of Boston, including the Anne M. Lynch Homes at Old Colony and the transformation of the Mary Ellen McCormack Development.

Over the years, Bill has been recognized for his commitment, loyalty and dedication to the city of Boston and its public housing residents, receiving the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts (ULEM) President’s Award, the J. Lincoln Durand Award from the Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants and the John W. McCormack Public Service Award.

Madam Speaker, Bill is not a person of many hobbies, he is a rabid Celtics fan in the greatest Boston tradition. He prides himself on being a history buff and amazes all with his knowledge of American history. Over the last decade, Bill and Ellen have reveled in their favorite passion, spoiling their five grandchildren Maggie, Andrew, Lucy, Evelyn and Calvin.

Alas, not one to go quietly into retirement, Bill, not only intends to spend time with his family, he recently earned a certificate in substance abuse counseling from UMass-Boston and he plans to work in substance recovery, continuing his dedication and commitment to serving others. Just take a moment and think about that one. Talk about a good guy.

Madam Speaker, Bill leaves a legacy of tirelessly working for tenants and breaking down barriers. It is my distinct honor to take to the floor of the House today to join with the family and many friends and the thousands of families in public housing and advocates for affordable housing all across our Country who want to say thank you to the William E. “Bill” McGonagle for his forty years of remarkable service to his community of South Boston and the public housing residents of Boston.

HONORING TIMOTHY J. CASSIDY FOR RETIRING AS PRESIDENT OF THE PEORIA, ILLINOIS PARK DISTRICT

HON. DARIN LahoOD
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations today to Tim Cassidy as he retires after twenty-seven years of service on the Peoria Park District. Tim dedicated thirty-two years of public service, of which nearly three decades have been in leadership. As a member on the Peoria Zoological Commission, Tim worked towards making the Peoria Zoo one of the best in Illinois. Dutifully, Tim served as the head of the Tom O’Connell Volunteer Community Service in 2009, and the Commissioner of the Year Award, the highest honor granted by the Illinois Association of Park Districts.

Along with being involved with the Park District, Tim has also served as the acting Chairman of the Riverfront Business District Commission. His resolve to be a positive influence is something we can all be proud of. Our area is fortunate to have someone so dedicated to the betterment of our community.

I am grateful for Tim’s time and commitment to Central Illinois. His work as a public servant has left a legacy in our community that will remain for generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARPA-E REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am very pleased to introduce the ARPA-E Reauthorization Act of 2019 with my colleague Mr. Lamb, who is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy.

Even though the agency is still relatively young, ARPA-E has already demonstrated incredible success in advancing high-risk, high-reward energy technology solutions that neither the public nor the private sector had been willing or able to support in the past. Industry leaders like Bill Gates and Norm Augustine have repeatedly called for tripling this agency’s budget given the unique role that it is now playing in our energy innovation pipeline.

ARPA-E’s impressive track record now includes over $2.9 billion in private sector follow-on funding for a group of 145 ARPA-E projects since the agency’s founding in 2009. Equally notable, 76 projects have formed new companies and 131 projects have shown enough promise to result in partnerships with other government agencies for further development. Moreover, as of March 2019, ARPA-E projects have helped advance scientific understanding and technological innovation through 2,489 peer-reviewed journal articles and 346 patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Yet to date, ARPA-E has only been able to support about 1 percent of the proposals submitted for its open funding opportunities, and 12 percent of the proposals submitted for its focused programs, even though the number of proposals has increased. Industry leaders like Bill Gates and Norm Augustine believe the high-quality proposals that the agency has received is many times higher.

This is why the ARPA-E Reauthorization Act of 2019 authorizes substantial growth in funding for the agency over the next five years. This growth is consistent with the original congressional mandate of the National Academies for establishing and supporting ARPA-E in its seminal Rising Above the Gathering Storm report, as well as more recent strong recommendations from well-respected bipartisan
and nonpartisan institutions such as the Bipartisan Policy Center's American Energy Innovation Council, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, and the Energy Futures Initiative.

I’d also note that in its review of the program in January 2017, the Bipartisan Policy Center found that a substantial increase in funding would be necessary for ARPA-E to be able to sufficiently support the scale-up of particularly promising technologies, such as advanced technologies for energy storage and power electronics, which were previously supported by the agency. But many of these new approaches are still too risky to be supported by the private sector alone, and too often, other DOE programs remain ill-suited to steward them.

So by authorizing these resources, this bill ensures that ARPA-E is able to fully pursue the development and eventual commercialization of truly transformational clean energy technologies, just as DARPA-E, the agency that ARPA-E is modeled, has been able to demonstrate time and again for defense applications.

Other improvements in this bill include explicit authorization for ARPA-E to better address DOE's significant nuclear waste cleanup and management issues, for which the Department currently spends several billion dollars every year and is setting to manage with current technologies. And it includes authorization for ARPA-E to support projects to improve the resilience, reliability, and security of our energy infrastructure.

The ARPA-E Reauthorization Act of 2019 incorporates extensive feedback from stakeholders, as well as input we received during a hearing the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held on February 26th entitled The Future of ARPA-E. It also incorporates constructive language from a bill that I co-sponsored with my friend, Mr. Lucas, who is now Ranking Member of the Committee, last year.

This bill is endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the Council on Competitiveness, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public & Land-grant Universities (APLU), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the American Gas Association (AGA), the Energy Storage Association (ESA), the Carbon Utilization Research Council (CURC), the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), the American Council for Capital Formation (ACCF), Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES), Science, Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), the Force America Innovation (TFAI), Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), the American Chemical Society (ACS), the Optical Society of America (OSA), IEEE-USA, the Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Gas Technology Institute (GTI).

Given this broad and deep support from the leading industrial, academic, scientific, and environmental organizations of our nation, I look forward to advancing this bill through the Committee in the coming months. And I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to build support for this critical investment in our nation's clean energy future.

IN RECOGNITION OF PENNYTOWN'S 148TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it brings me great joy to rise today to commemorate the 148th anniversary of Pennytown, Missouri. Founded by former slaves, this historic town stands as a declaration of what people can accomplish in the face of adversity. Today, their descendants gather to honor the memory of a remarkable chapter of Missouri's history. Joseph Penny, the founder and visionary of Pennytown, was a former slave from Kentucky. Mr. Penny, like many, joined the Great Migration north, hoping for a better and more prosperous life. Penny started as a tenant farmer in the late 1860s, but his life changed in March of 1871 when he paid $160 for eight acres of land in Saline County, Missouri. The purchase of this land marked the birth of Pennytown. During a time when black Americans were not allowed to own land in many parts of the country, Pennytown became a haven. By 1879, eleven land acquisitions had been made. This town became a testament to the residents’ commitment to maintaining autonomy while helping former slaves in reconstruction. At its peak, approximately 1,000 freed slaves and their descendants lived in Pennytown, forming the largest concentration of black-owned land in Saline County. At first sight, Pennytown did not appear to be much. The town only consisted of two churches, a school and a store. However, this small collection of farms and buildings made up a mighty microeconomy. Pennytown was a vibrant community, strongly intertwined and loyal. The men would venture from house to house during the holidays to chop wood for the community, and the women gathered weekly to create goods that could be sold, using the proceeds to create a communal emergency fund. The descendants of Pennytown help the legacy of the community live on for younger generations through stories of the origins and efforts it took to create such a town.

Today, the Pennytown Freewill Baptist Church provides a tangible reminder of rural life for African Americans in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, while preserving the integrity of location, design, and feeling. Much like today, churches in the past served as much more than just places of worship, and the Pennytown church was no different. With its Baptist gatherings, social events, and communal celebrations, the church was a testament to the perseverance of a community who had, just six years earlier, suffered great loss. This community lasted a few decades, but the unpredictability of time has removed most visible reminders of its existence. The Pennytown Freewill Baptist Church is the last reminder of what this town once was. The Pennytown descendants who own the church gather together the first Sunday of every August to celebrate and honor their rich history and to remind all of us that the past is truly present in our world today.

CONGRATULATING SENIOR OFFICER JON PETTIT ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF EULESS, TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jon Pettit on his well-earned retirement from the City of Euless, Texas Police Department after twenty years of dedicated service as a law enforcement officer. Jon is a hardworking and highly respected Senior Officer of the Euless Police Department. He has honorably served his community since beginning his distinguished career with the Euless Police Department as a Public Service Officer where he served for four years, gaining valuable experience in jail operations. In 2004, Jon was promoted to Officer where he would continue to serve the department in numerous capacities over the next sixteen years, exhibiting the highest level of professionalism.

Throughout his time as an officer in Euless, Jon has received over 35 police commendations as evidence of his outstanding service.
and professionalism. During Jon’s time with the department he served variety of assignments, namely Field Training Officer, Bicycle Officer, and Criminal Investigation “Auto Task Force” Investigator. It is through his numerous commendations that Jon’s colleagues, supervisors, and the Euless community have expressed their deepest appreciation and gratitude for his service.

In twenty years of service, Jon has received over 2000 hours of police in-service and public safety officer training, consisting of a variety of advanced and master-level police courses. These courses include areas of patrol, advanced "auto theft" investigation, accident investigation, defensive tactics training, complex crimes investigation, Reid Interviewing Advanced Investigation Techniques, and police "intoxilyzer operator" training. Jon’s dedication to his fellow officers is apparent in his commitment to the instruction and development of younger police officers, and Jon has always been appreciated as an informal leader within the department.

Jon’s contributions to the law enforcement operations in the City of Euless has helped to ensure countless officers were adequately trained and prepared for the challenges they face in their everyday duties as police. His legacy will leave a lasting mark on the City of Euless and the Euless Police Department for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the extensive efforts Jon has contributed to the City of Euless, and the State of Texas. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Senior Officer Jon Pettit for his many years of service.

IN HONOR OF PASTOR R. L. ROGERS’ LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Pastor R. L. Rogers—a man of God, a community leader, father, and husband. Pastor Rogers was born on March 6, 1939 in Calvert, Texas to the late Ernest and Margaret Rogers and transitioned from labor to eternal reward on July 20, 2019, after many years of giving back to our Dallas-Fort Worth community.

Pastor Rogers attended high school in south Texas, before graduating from the Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Pastor Rogers’ time at seminary started his journey in faith and helping our community that expanded over five decades.

Pastor Rogers was the founder and the one and only Pastor for 53 years of the Harvey Avenue Baptist Church—a place of worship that is a cornerstone of the Fort Worth community. That was only the beginning of his accomplishments. Pastor Rogers was also an avid volunteer for important causes, like mentoring youth in our community, and serving as a Chaplain at the Tarrant County Jail. He was also a nationally known Evangelist, Pastor and Gospel Preacher.

Pastor Rogers was a pillar of our community—spending 53 of his years teaching and encouraging our community and his accomplishments and service will be greatly missed.

HONORING PETER NISSEN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter Nissen for his commitment to agriculture and our wine community and to honor him as the Napa County Farm Bureau’s 2019 Agriculturalist of the Year.

Mr. Nissen grew up in Richmond, California and began his career in agriculture before he graduated high school. The summer before he began his junior year, he moved irrigation lines in Cucamonga and Alta Loma vineyards. Mr. Nissen attended the University of California at Santa Barbara and graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1973. After graduation, Mr. Nissen worked in the vineyard department of Charles Krug Winery. Starting in the equipment shop, he worked in all aspects of vineyard operations, working his way up from the equipment shop to assistant vineyard manager in 1976. In February of 1978, Mr. Nissen started Nissen Vineyard Services Inc., a vineyard management business that currently farms over 1100 acres, most of which are in Napa County. Additionally, his company supplies labor to other agricultural operations.

Mr. Nissen’s involvement in our community extends beyond his company as he volunteers his time for numerous agricultural organizations. He has been a Board Member of Napa County Farm Bureau (NCFB) since 1998, is a past President, and is the Board Member representing NCFB on the Napa Valley Vine Trail. Mr. Nissen currently sits on the Board of the California Farm Labor Contractors Association and previously served as President. He has served as coordinator since the NCFB and the Napa County Agriculture Commissioner’s office began hosting the annual Ag Day program for students in second and third grades. Mr. Nissen volunteered to manage the vineyard at Camerons Elementary School from 1990 to 2014. He also volunteered to develop and manage the Napa County Resource Conservation District’s Huichica Creek Sustainable Demonstration Vineyard.

Madam Speaker, Peter Nissen has been a committed and active member of our agricultural community for many decades. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him as the Napa County Farm Bureau’s 2019 Agriculturalist of the Year.

HONORING DIANE YODER FOR HER SELFFLESS SERVICE TO OUR HEROES

HON. DANIEL MEUSER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with profound respect that I rise today to honor Diane Yoder of Fleetwood for her incredible service to our community’s veterans and first responders.

The Yoder family is a military family; all three of Diane’s children served, following a family tradition of service. When her son Jarett was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2013, Diane took up this call to service herself. She began the Jarett Yoder Foundation, a non-profit with 10 Patriot Houses in Pennsylvania for veterans and first responders at risk of homelessness. She is now working with more than 170 families to provide important resources to them in times of need.

Diane has touched countless lives through her work and carries on the memory of her son’s service in her own. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Diane Yoder for her service to Pennsylvania’s veterans and first responders.

VOM JOHNATHAN SHEPHERD
HON. KEVIN HERN
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma’s July Veteran of the Month, Sergeant Johnathan Shepherd.

Sergeant Shepherd joined the Marines in 1997, where he served for 5 years, deploying to the Mediterranean in 2000.

Once back in Tulsa, Sergeant Shepherd started his first business after learning about federal opportunities available to veteran-owned businesses. He and his wife, Jessica, built the company in their spare time for 8 years before devoting their full efforts to establish Americom Technologies Group in 2016. Also in 2016, Sergeant Shepherd and his wife launched Eagle Ops as an outreach program for veterans and their families. In 2018, they joined with fellow Marine Stacy Hester to create the Eagle Ops Foundation with the focus on community. The Foundation is active in the Tulsa community and works to build relationships for our veterans, their families and patriots in the community.

Sergeant Shepherd truly is an impressive man of integrity and honor. He makes Oklahoma proud and plays an important role in our community of veterans. I’m glad to have this opportunity to shine a light on his work and give him the recognition he deserves as our July Veteran of the Month.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER FOR THEIR INVALUABLE SERVICE

HON. MATT GAETZ
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Center for Independent Living Disability Resource Center (CILDRC). That is committed as epitomized in their mission statement, “to assist individuals with disabilities achieve their goals of independence”.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), passed July 26, 1990, put into law the ideal Americans with disabilities should not be discriminated against when going about their daily life. This includes, equal employment, opportunity, public building access areas, and
other accommodating services. Expanding upon these, CILDRC assists those with disabilities in asserting their freedoms to become independent.

The CILDRC assists, both, our communities and individuals with disabilities by offering work experience programs to receive the knowledge required to go into the workforce and to contribute to businesses and organizations across Northwest Florida.

This year is the 29th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The CILDRC luncheon is celebrating the importance of the ADA and reaffirms that the ADA is vital in protecting those in our communities with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate the Center for Independent Living Disability Resource Center (CILDRC) on their efforts to make an impact with and on behalf of people with disabilities in our communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELIJAH “PUMPSIE” GREEN

HON. MARK DeSALUINER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. DeSALUINER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of a groundbreaking professional baseball player, Richmond native, and longtime El Cerrito resident, Elijah “Pumpsie” Green.

Born in 1933 in Oklahoma, Pumpsie’s parents moved to Richmond, California, where they raised their five children. Pumpsie attended El Cerrito High School where he was an accomplished three-sport athlete who would later earn distinction as an inductee into the school’s inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame class. He ultimately chose to pursue baseball, starring at Contra Costa College before joining the school’s inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame.

Pumpsie became part of the game’s true trailblazers when he became the first African American to break Major League Baseball’s color barrier, became one of the game’s true trailblazers when he became the first African American to break Major League Baseball’s color barrier, but by Congress in 1899, when the District had no home rule. The statue was constructed using both federal and private funds. The Freemasons, of which Pike was a member, donated the majority of the money needed to build and install the statue in 1901. I oppose tearing down Confederate statues because I believe they should be moved to more appropriate settings, like museums, to avoid erasing an important part of history from which Americans must continue to learn.

Pike was a Confederate general who served dishonorably and was forced to resign in disgrace. It was found that soldiers under his command mutilated the bodies of Union soldiers, and Pike was ultimately imprisoned after his fellow officers reported that he misappropriated funds. Adding to the dishonor of taking up arms against the United States, Pike dis-honored his Confederate military service. He certainly has no claim to be memorialized in the nation’s capital. Even those who do not want Confederate statues removed will have to justify awarding Pike any honor, considering his history.

After meeting with the Freemasons, I believe that the best course of action is to remove the statue and find a more appropriate place for it. The Freemasons themselves support the statue’s removal, given its divisive nature. The D.C. Mayor and the Council also support the removal of the statue.

My bill clarifies that no federal funds may be used to remove the Pike statue. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING DIANE VANDERKOYO FOR BEING SELECTED TO BE PART OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLDS GAMES

HON. DARIN LaHOOD
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. LaHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Diane VanderKooy, of Chatham, Illinois, for participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run at the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi.

Diane began her involvement with the Special Olympics in 1990. Since then, Diane has put her heart and soul into the games. VanderKooy plays a major role in coordinating the Gillespie to Bloomington leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run in Illinois. This was Diane’s first time at the World Games, as she joined a team of 112 members who took part in the torch run throughout the United Arab Emirates.

Diane has dedicated her life to ensuring that people have a fun and safe environment to participate in whichever sport they desire. Not only is VanderKooy deeply involved with the Special Olympics, but she is also the Athletic Director for the Chatham Chargers. Diane was recently recognized by the Village of Chatham for her service to the village and community with an honorary designation of a local roadway as “Diane VanderKooy Volunteer Drive.” Diane’s work proves that athletics can have a positive and meaningful impact on people from all walks of life.

Again, I would like to commend Diane VanderKooy for her continued service in the community, and for participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run at the Special Olympics World Games.

HONORING MOUNTAINMAN OUTDOOR SUPPLY COMPANY OWNER JOHN NEMJO FOR WINNING THE NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION’S SMALL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of the North Country’s most successful small business owners, John Nemjo.

John demonstrated his entrepreneurial spirit when he opened Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company in 1993. Back then, he ran the company out of an abandoned, 700 square foot pizza shop in the heart of the Adirondack State Park with just a couple seasonal employees and a budget of a few thousand dollars.

In the decades since, John has grown his company into a fixture of the Adirondack business community. He now operates a thriving business out of six locations with over 15,000 square feet in combined retail space. Instead of a handful of seasonal employees, John now has 53 year-round employees. Adirondack Bank acknowledged John’s achievements with a 2018 Small Business Excellence Award.

Small business owners like John Nemjo benefit our communities in so many ways. They employ local residents and contribute to the dynamism and vibrancy of our economy. On behalf of New York’s 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate him for this well-deserved recognition and thank him for his contribution to our community.

HONORING ALFREDO PEDROZA
HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Napa County Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza as Napa County Farm Bureau’s 2019 Friend of Agriculture.

Pedroza, a native of Napa County, is the son of a farmworker and currently serves as the Supervisor for District Four of Napa County. Mr. Pedroza attended Sonoma State University, where he earned a Bachelor of
Science in Business Administration and a minor in Economics. Mr. Pedroza began his career working in the financial services industry. He worked with credit unions and community banks for over a decade, where he gained valuable financial expertise he has used to help our local business community improve, manage, and sustain their financial growth. In 2012, Mr. Pedroza was elected to the Napa City Council. He became both the first Latino member and the youngest city councilmember ever elected to the Napa City Council. Governor Jerry Brown appointed Mr. Pedroza to serve the Fourth District on the Napa County Board of Supervisors in December of 2014. Mr. Pedroza went on to win a full, four-year term on the Board of Supervisors in the 2016 primary election.

Mr. Pedroza’s deep ties to Napa County and commitment to public service drive him to serve our community, including the agricultural sector. He is dedicated to enacting sound agricultural policy. He has worked tirelessly on agricultural issues that have come before the Board of Supervisors. His passion for serving the community extends beyond his career, as Mr. Pedroza is active in a local service clubs and nonprofits. Through his work on the Board of Supervisors and with nonprofit organizations, Mr. Pedroza hopes to realize a Napa County that will allow future generations of Napa residents to start businesses, raise families, and live fulfilling lives.

Madam Speaker, Alfredo Pedroza has an unrelenting dedication to our agricultural community and to serving the people of Napa County and is deserving of being named Napa County Farm Bureau’s 2019 Friend of Agriculture. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the service of Alfredo Pedroza here today.

REMEMBERING JOE H. BARRAGAN

HON. J. LUIS CORREA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joe H. Barragan, an esteemed Californian and an outstanding gentleman to everyone who knew him. Mr. Barragan passed away on November 19, 2018 but will continue to be remembered for his love of family, commitment to serving his community, and passion for working to make the world a better place.

Mr. Barragan was born on December 31, 1931 and attended Saint Ferdinand School and San Fernando High School. A man of extraordinary character and patriotism, he nobly served our nation as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War.

Though his sacrifices for our country alone are enough to warrant the highest respect and praise, we could not properly celebrate a man such as him without mentioning the generous life he led in his community. In the years after he returned from war, Mr. Barragan spent his time enriching the lives of others without ever expecting anything in return. He will be remembered for his endless kindness and love of all people.

Mr. Barragan is survived by his wife of 61 years, Virginia Barragan; his two daughters, Susan Arriaga and Belinda Barragan; his son-in-law, Danny Arriaga; his two grandchildren, Daniel Arriaga Jr. and Jessica Arriaga; and his dog, Demi.

As his family and community continue to hold the legacy and memory of Mr. Joe H. Barragan in their hearts, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding man and the virtues he held so dear to him. May his memory serve as an example for all seeking to lead a happy and joyful life and may his spirit rest in peace and glory.
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5151–S5205

Measures Introduced: Thirty-five bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2312–2346, S.J. Res. 51, and S. Res. 291–293.

Measures Reported:

- 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. Page S5195

Measures Passed:

- National Lobster Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 293, designating September 25, 2019, as “National Lobster Day”.

- Judicial Districts of North Carolina: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 929, to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina, and the bill was then passed. Pages S5203–04

- Lucas Lowe Memorial Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1250, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11158 Highway 146 North in Hardin, Texas, as the “Lucas Lowe Memorial Post Office”, and the bill was then passed. Page S5204

- Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 347, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the “Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building”. Page S5204

- Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 1196, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1715 Linnerud Drive in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, as the “Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building”. Page S5204

- Louise and Bob Slaughter Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 540, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 770 Ayrault Road in Fairport, New York, as the “Louise and Bob Slaughter Post Office”. Page S5204

- Congressman Bill Carney Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 828, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the “Congressman Bill Carney Post Office”. Page S5204

- Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 829, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the “Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building”.

- Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office: Senate passed S. 1272, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”.

- Richard G. Lugar Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 1759, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 456 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the “Richard G. Lugar Post Office Building”.

- Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1198, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, Nevada, as the “Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”.

- Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 1449, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3033 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, as the “Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office”.

- Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 3305, 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”.

Bipartisan Budget Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that
the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of 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, be withdrawn, and that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, Senate begin consideration of the bill; and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, that if cloture is filed on the bill, there be up to two hours of debate, equally divided between the Leaders, or their designees; that the only amendment in order be Paul Amendment No. 932, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on the amendment with a 60-affirmative vote threshold needed for adoption; and that following disposition of Paul Amendment No. 932, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture, and that if cloture is invoked, all post-cloture time be considered expired.

Pittman Nomination—Cloture: By 54 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 242), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, under the order of Tuesday, July 30, 2019.

Brown Nomination—Cloture: By 51 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 243), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Starr Nomination—Cloture: By 51 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 244), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Brantly Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Haines Nomination—Cloture: By 87 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 245), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Brown Nomination—Cloture: By 79 yeas to 9 nays (Vote No. EX. 246), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Grimberg Nomination—Cloture: By 72 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. EX. 247), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Pulliam Nomination—Cloture: By 54 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 248), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Pacold Nomination—Cloture: By 86 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 249), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Seeger Nomination—Cloture: By 87 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 250), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Stickman IV Nomination—Cloture: By 57 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 251), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Craft Nomination—Cloture: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of 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, Department of State.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 33 nays (Vote No. EX. 252), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the confirmation votes on the nominations be at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader; and that the cloture motions on the following nominations be withdrawn: the nominations of Karin J. Immergut, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, John Milton Younge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Pennsylvania, and the nominations of Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.
States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, and Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 236), Michael T. Liburdi, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

By 68 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. EX. 237), Peter D. Welte, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

By 89 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 239), James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 85 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. EX. 238), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

By 54 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 241), Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. EX. 240), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, be withdrawn.

Messages from the House:

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Executive Communications:

Petitions and Memorials:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Seventeen record votes were taken today. (Total—252)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:51 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5205.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Gen. John E. Hyten, USAF, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense, after the nominee, who was introduced by former Representative Heather Wilson, testified and answered question in his own behalf.

DIGITAL CURRENCIES AND BLOCKCHAIN

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine regulatory frameworks for digital currencies and blockchain, including S. 2243, to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to require that funds deposited be available for withdrawal in real-time, after receiving testimony from Rebecca M. Nelson, Specialist in International Trade and Finance, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Jeremy Allaire, Circle Internet Financial Limited, Boston, Massachusetts; and Mehrsa Baradaran, University of California School of Law, Irvine.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2302, to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1992, to amend the FAST Act to repeal a rescission of funds; and

6 General Services Administration resolutions.

USMCA

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, after receiving testimony from Paula Barnett, Paula Elaine Barnett Jewelry, Brownsville, Oregon; Matt Blunt, American Automotive Policy Council, and Michael Wessel, United Steelworkers union staff...
liaison to the Labor Advisory Committee, both of Washington, D.C.; James C. Collins, Jr., Corteva Agriscience, Wilmington, Delaware; Derek Leathers, Werner Enterprises, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska; and Thomas J. Vilsack, U.S. Dairy Export Council, Arlington, Virginia.

NOMINATIONS
Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of John Leslie Carwile, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Erin Elizabeth McKee, of California, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Anthony F. Godfrey, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, and Herro Mustafa, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

U.S. SOUTHERN BORDER MIGRATION
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine unprecedented migration at the United States southern border, focusing on what is required to improve conditions, after receiving testimony from Mark Morgan, Acting Commissioner, Customs and Border Protection, and Jennifer L. Costello, Deputy Inspector General, both of the Department of Homeland Security.

U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE OVERSIGHT
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded an oversight hearing to examine the United States Copyright Office, after receiving testimony from Karyn A. Temple, United States Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress.

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: 49 public bills, H.R. 4091–4139; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 530–535 were introduced. Pages H7479–81
Additional Cosponsors: Pages H7483–84
Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:
H.R. 2528, to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–184).
Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Raskin to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H7477
Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Page H7477
Empowering Beneficiaries, Ensuring Access, and Strengthening Accountability Act of 2019: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3253, to provide for certain extensions with respect to the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act. Pages H7477–78
Senate Referral: S. 1275 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H7477.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 11:30 a.m. and adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D928)


COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine perspectives on reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, 9:30 a.m., SR–328A.
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Aviation Administration, 9:45 a.m., SD–192.
Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vice Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, to be Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 2297, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and S. 2299, to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety and reliability of pipeline transportation, 10 a.m., SH–216.
Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nominations of Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary, Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel, and Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, all of the Department of the Treasury, and Travis Greaves, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, 10:30 a.m., SD–215.
Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.
Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kenneth Charles Canterbury, Jr., of South Carolina, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Justin Reed Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 31

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, post-cloture.

Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 a.m., Friday, August 2

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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July 30, 2019

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