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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 17, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SCOTT H. PETERS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

COMMEMORATING CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when our country was founded, the idea of a democratic republic was not foreign; it was nonexistent. Besides intermittent cooperation to win independence, the Colonies had no sense of unity, and being American had little meaning. Few citizens could have realized the amount of sacrifice needed to write and ratify a document to unite them all.

Our Constitution truly is a miracle. Aside from its genius, its history helps us appreciate the blessing it is. Our colleague, Congressman CHRIS STEWART, and Judge Ted Stewart wrote a wonderful book, ''Seven Miracles That Saved America.'' In it, they offer three reasons to believe God had a hand in the crafting of the Constitution.

For the remainder of my time today on Constitution Day, I would like to quote them.

''One, Timing. The window of opportunity for the writing and ratification of the Constitution was very small. Every effort to make the Articles of Confederation workable between 1776 and 1787 had already failed. But then suddenly, in May of 1787, a group of 55 patriots came together with both the wisdom of the ages and enough youth to energetically fight for the ratification of the Constitution.

''Any attempt to create a constitution later than 1787 would have almost certainly resulted in failure as well. Just 2 years after the Convention finished its work, France became embroiled in its own revolution, which lasted a full decade and degenerated into a bloody, violent affair.

''Surely, this example of failure would have frightened the Founding Fathers, giving them reason to think very differently about the degree of power to be retained by 'the people.'

''Making matters worse was the fact that the Founders split into two distinct political camps in the years that immediately followed the Convention. Had the Constitutional Convention been called just a few years later than 1787, many of these men would have been unwilling to stand together. And without their input, the Convention would never have had a chance of success.

''Two, Miraculous Compromise. The second way in which the Constitution is demonstrably a miracle is the manner in which it came about.

''During the course of the Convention, every delegate had to give up on some cherished principle.

''James Madison, who had come to the Convention more prepared than anyone and was primarily responsible for the general outline of the government established by the Constitution, lost on many issues. Most dear to him was his belief that the House and the Senate should be based on proportional representation.

''Franklin wanted an executive council voted for life, rather than a single executive. He did not want the chief executive to have the power of the veto. He did not want anyone in the executive position to receive a salary. He lost on all counts.

''But during the course of the 560 roll calls, no man lost every time, and everyone was part of a winning vote on some occasion. These men of social stature, political and business success—'demigods' all—swallowed their pride, accepted defeat of personal agendas, and went forth and convinced a nation to accept the product of the Convention.

''Three, 4,400 Miraculous Words. Perhaps the greatest miracle of the Constitution is the document itself. In essence, the Constitution has had only 13 substantive amendments in over 200 years.

''History has proven that the Constitution creates a system that defies despotism and tyranny.

''How was it able to do this? Primarily through the underlying premise, part of Madison's gift to the world, that the Constitution comes from the people. Madison coined the phrase 'We the People.' These words are far more than a clever phrase. They restate the principle, first asserted in the Declaration of Independence, that God gives man rights and the only legitimate purpose of government is to protect those rights.

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''In short, the Constitution not only survived the evolution of this great Nation but permitted the American people to exercise the greatest level of individual liberty in history.

''Further, it has been the 'shining light on the hill' that has provided the inspiration for peoples all over the Earth to seek liberty and freedom for themselves.

''Is that not a miracle?''

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong.

Last month, I had the opportunity to hear directly from leaders in Hong Kong dedicated to both religious tolerance and to democracy, as promised in the ''one country, two systems'' agreement.

The people of Hong Kong wave American flags during their protests as a symbol of the freedoms that they desire.

Now is the time for Congress to support the people of Hong Kong and pass Representative CHRIS SMITH's bill, the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act. This measure states without question that the United States Government supports the people of Hong Kong and their right to freedom of expression and democratic governance guaranteed under their 50-year arrangement agreed to in 1997 by China and the United Kingdom.

STOP IGNORING RED LINES IN IDLIB, SYRIA

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today again to bring attention to the travesty happening in Idlib province, Syria.

Since mid-August, the brutal dictator Assad, his protector Putin, and Iranian coconspirators have repeatedly bombed Idlib and the surrounding region. Their aerial slaughter and shelling have displaced all but 2 percent to 3 percent of the population. They have bombed hospitals, even killing a former kindergarten student of the Wisdom House School, a school supported by constituents in my home of Arkansas, supported before the school was closed due to bombing.

After nearly 10 years of death and destruction, some say this conflict is drawing to a close. When we look back on this calamitous conflict, we and our allies in Europe will hang our heads in shame for ignoring red lines that gave a green light to Assad's slaughter of his own civilians by the hundreds of thousands.

HONORING BOB SHELL

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend Bob Shell, who passed away last month at the age of 88.

In 1950, Bob joined The Baldwin Company for a job scheduled to last 9 months and ended up staying for almost 70 years. Bob started in the field as a payroll clerk and worked his way up in the company, eventually becoming president, chairman, and chairman emeritus. The company's name was changed when Bob became president and CEO to Baldwin & Shell Construction Company, the name it holds today.

Bob is one of the five charter members of the Arkansas Construction Hall of Fame. He was named Arkansas Business Executive of the Year in 1990 and was featured by Arkansas Business as one of 10 business icons for our State in 2016.

During his time with the company, he had been involved in more than 2,700 projects, including hospitals, offices, schools, churches, and industrial plants.

I admired this good and decent man. He was a role model and a friend to many across our State of Arkansas, and I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his friends, family, and loved ones.

HONORING NICHOLAS BURRELL

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an amazing young man from my district, Nicholas Burrell from Benton, Arkansas.

Nicholas started as a Cub Scout in third grade and, at age 14, became the youngest Eagle Scout in Troop 99 in Benton. He is also a cancer survivor.

Nicholas was diagnosed with cancer of the brain and spine when he was 11. He has had multiple tumors and underwent 26 rounds of chemotherapy but was always back to participating in projects with the Boy Scouts just a few months after his last treatment.

For his Eagle project, he built a free outdoor pantry called the Blessing Box at Salem United Methodist Church, where Troop 99 holds its meetings.

Nicholas is currently a ninth-grader at Bryant Junior High School, and his cancer has been in remission since 2017.

Nicholas' strength and perseverance are a testament and witness to us all. I wish him much continued success as he grows and makes Arkansas proud.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, we began National Hispanic Heritage Month, one that celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans of Hispanic descent.

I recently learned the story of a former Kansas City resident, the late Hector Berretto, Sr., who served as a voice for his local Hispanic community. Hector founded the Kansas City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and, later, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, to counter disadvantages of Hispanic business owners in the Kansas City area and around the country.

The Hispanic population in the United States contributes enormously to our country, both culturally and economically. Most of the Hispanic individuals I have had the pleasure of knowing, many of them patients of mine, have been remarkably dedicated to faith and family and preserving their own culture centered around faith and family.

Many of my OB patients were Hispanic women, often accompanied by their loving mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and aunts concerned for the health of their family member and the baby. Every visit was a family event of great importance to the family.

Now numbering over 55 million individuals, the Hispanic American population is projected to combine for an estimated buying power of $1.7 trillion in 2020. Hispanics are more likely than average Americans to open a business. Now with over 3.2 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States, millions more American workers have jobs, thanks to these industrious entrepreneurs.

I am grateful for this opportunity to reflect on the unique contributions of the Hispanic American community to our great Nation and to Kansas. I look forward to continuing working with communities of all backgrounds in pursuit of our shared goal of a free and equal America, an America where anyone can live the American Dream if they are willing to work hard enough.

DEMOCRATS WILL DO ANYTHING TO STOP PRESIDENT TRUMP

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, rather than focusing on bipartisan trade agreements, Congress is being put on pause for a charade, a charade that hopes to undo the will of American voters.

Democrats aren't sure what they are doing in the Judiciary Committee today. You might hear that it is an impeachment inquiry, a meeting about rules for impeachment, or, perhaps, a group therapy session.

We know Democrats are more interested in tearing down the President than in building up America. They will do anything to stop President Trump at any cost.

Democrats want to throw the brakes on a thriving economy. They want to turn back the clock on record-low unemployment in Hispanic and African American communities, tax cuts for families and small businesses, and more, all in the name of bitter politics after a loss. They, the Democrats, embody the term ''poor loser.''

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were to abandon their tired and baseless attacks on the President, we could move forward in a bipartisan way to pass the USMCA trade deal, secure our borders, and reform our very broken immigration system. We can work on lowering the costs of prescription drugs and healthcare.

Americans desperately need Congress to deliver these solutions. Unfortunately, House Democrats have chosen

political divisiveness over the American people, party over country, and hate over hope and possibility.

Republicans stand ready and waiting for Democrats to finish their infighting and impeachment circus. We stand ready to work with them to pass USMCA and further our economic prosperity. But until they are done playing political games with impeachment, we, and the American people, will be forced to wait, and all America is the loser.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Brother Peter Tabichi, Order of Saint Francis, Keriko Mixed Day Secondary School, Pwani Village, Kenya, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

We pray for peace in the world.

We pray that our hands and hearts be stretched out in compassion and in the service of others.

You remind us, ''Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.''

Lord, make us an instrument of Your peace.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

ONLY CONGRESS CAN AUTHORIZE WAR AGAINST IRAN

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, President Trump said that the U.S. is ''locked and loaded'' and ready to launch an attack against Iran in retaliation for attacks on Saudi oil facilities that Houthi rebels in Yemen have claimed responsibility for.

Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker, this Congress has not—and let me emphasize, has not—authorized any kind of military operation against Iran. Nevertheless, the President is beating the drums of war to distract Americans from the truth.

What happened in Saudi Arabia is a logical outcome of failing to negotiate an end to Yemen's civil war. It is a logical outcome of the President's blind support for Saudi Arabia against the will of Congress.

It is time for cooler heads to prevail. It is time to end U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen. It is time to end the failed maximum pressure campaign against Iran. It is time to remind this President that the Constitution gives Congress the right to declare war, not him.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on September 16, 2019, at 5:48 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress of his intent to enter into a trade agreement regarding tariff barriers with Japan.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk of the House.

INITIATING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN ON A UNITED STATES-JAPAN TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116–63)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

On October 16, 2018, my Administration notified the Congress that I intended to initiate trade negotiations with Japan on a United States-Japan Trade Agreement. As stated in that notification and subsequent consultations with the Congress, my Administration proposed pursuing negotiations with Japan in stages. I am pleased to report that my Administration has reached an initial trade agreement regarding tariff barriers (the ''agreement'') with Japan and I intend to enter into the agreement in the coming weeks.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 103(a)(2) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–26, Title I) (the ''Act''), I hereby notify the Congress that I intend to enter into a trade agreement regarding tariff barriers with Japan under section 103(a) of the Act.

In addition, I also will be entering into an Executive Agreement with Japan regarding digital trade.

My Administration looks forward to continued collaboration with the Congress on further negotiations with Japan to achieve a comprehensive trade agreement that results in more fair and reciprocal trade between the United States and Japan.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 16, 2019.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 17, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 17, 2019, at 11:25 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con Res. 25.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

STOP TIP-OVERS OF UNSTABLE, RISKY DRESSERS ON YOUTH ACT

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2211) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2211

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act'' or the ''STURDY Act''.

SEC. 2. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD TO PROTECT AGAINST TIP-OVER OF CLOTHING STORAGE UNITS.

(a) CLOTHING STORAGE UNIT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''clothing storage unit'' means any free-standing furniture item manufactured in the United States or imported for use in the United States that is intended for the storage of clothing, typical of bedroom furniture.

(b) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c)(1), not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall—

(A) in consultation with representatives of consumer groups, clothing storage unit manufacturers, craft or handmade furniture manufacturers, and independent child product engineers and experts, examine and assess the effectiveness of any voluntary consumer product safety standards for clothing storage units; and

(B) in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, promulgate a final consumer product safety standard for clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury that includes—

(i) tests that simulate the weight of children up to 60 pounds;

(ii) objective, repeatable, and measurable tests that simulate real world use and account for any impact on clothing storage unit stability that may result from placement on carpeted surfaces, drawers with items in them, multiple open drawers, or dynamic force;

(iii) testing of all clothing storage units, including those under 30 inches in height; and

(iv) warning requirements based on ASTM F2057-17, or its successor at the time of enactment, provided that the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall strengthen the requirements of ASTM F2057-17, or its successor, if reasonably necessary to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury.

(2) TREATMENT OF STANDARD.—A consumer product safety standard promulgated under paragraph (1) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).

(c) SUBSEQUENT RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At any time subsequent to the publication of a consumer product safety standard under subsection (b)(1), the Commission may initiate a rulemaking, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code to modify the requirements of the consumer product safety standard described in subsection (b)(1) if reasonably necessary to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury.

(2) REVISION OF RULE.—If, after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revises its Clinical Growth Charts, the consumer product safety standard described in subsection (b)(1) shall , on the date that is 180 days after such revision, be revised to include tests that simulate the weight of children up to the 95th percentile weight of children 72 months in age, as depicted in the revised Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Clinical Growth Charts, unless the Commission determines the modification is not reasonably necessary to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury.

(3) TREATMENT OF RULES.—Any rule promulgated under paragraph (1) or revision made pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 2211.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a very proud and grateful person who has been a consumer advocate all of my life.

Today, Congressman LONG, you and I are going to be dealing with bills that may not always get the top headlines, but they save lives.

When I say grateful, I am so grateful to our ranking member, Congresswoman RODGERS, and for all the bipartisan support that we have had on these bills. It means so much to me.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2211, the Stop Tip-overs of Unstable Risky Dressers on Youth Act, which is known as the STURDY Act.

I introduced this legislation with Representatives JERRY MCNERNEY, DARREN SOTO, and BOBBY RUSH. This legislation advanced out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on July 17, 2019, by voice vote, meaning unanimously, bipartisanly.

According to data collected by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, a child is injured from a tip-over every 17 minutes. Every 10 days, a child dies from one of these tip-overs. Particularly deadly are tip-overs of clothing storage units, such as dressers.

Since 2000, these clothing units have killed more than 200 children in the United States. Victims tend to be under the age of 6. At this age, children are mobile and curious. They like to climb on furniture, play in the drawers, or stand in the drawers and reach for items on top of units. Tragedy can come in just minutes. Just after a child awakes from a nap or a night's sleep, they are likely to engage in this kind of activity.

Tens of millions of dressers have been recalled in recent years. Unfortunately, children continue to die from furniture tip-overs. That is because the current industry furniture stability standard is simply too weak. It does not cover shorter clothing storage units that have also been known to kill children, and industry tests don't cover common hazard patterns. Moreover, the standard is only voluntary.

That is why it is critical that we pass the STURDY Act, which would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a strong and mandatory safety standard that is effective at preventing furniture tip-overs.

I especially thank the families of victims, the people who have come with pictures of their children or their loved ones to talk about how important this bill is, how hard it is for them to talk about the terrible loss of life in their families. It is those people who have really told the story of how important it is for us to act today.

I appreciate the willingness, as I said before, of our ranking member and all the Republicans to work with me to bring this bill to the floor. I call on all of my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I have personal knowledge of this type of situation. Just within the last 30 days, a friend of mine lost a 3-year-old grandchild due to one of these situations. There can be nothing worse than losing a child. To have a vibrant 3-year-old child one minute and a deceased 3-year-old the next is not acceptable.

This bill directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue a consumer product safety standard for clothing storage units, to prevent them from tipping over onto children.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, we support this bill moving forward with the House passage today.

I thank my friend Ms. SCHAKOWSKY for her efforts in this endeavor. I urge

my colleagues to support H.R. 2211, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding, and I thank her for her work on this bill. I thank my friend BILLY LONG for his support and encouragement on this.

I do rise today in support of H.R. 2211, the STURDY Act. When consumers purchase a piece of furniture, they trust that the product is safe. But out of 42 common household dressers recently subjected to rigorous testing by Consumer Reports, only 20 met the robust stability standards. The reason why is that current voluntary standards are woefully inadequate.

The voluntary standards apply only to dressers 30 inches or taller, despite multiple fatalities and injuries involving shorter dressers. Industry standards only require the dresser to remain upright when a 50-pound weight is hung from the top drawer, even though 60 pounds is more accurately the weight of a 6-year-old. The result: over 200 reported deaths from furniture tip-overs since 2000. That is 200 deaths. Most victims are under the age of 6.

Mr. Speaker, the most profound responsibility we have as adults is to protect our children. In 2016, a 2-year-old from my home State of California died when a dresser tipped over onto him.

We know the problem: lax industry standards that really only protect the manufacturers and not their customers.

We have a solution: the STURDY Act, which establishes robust standards to stop this tip-over epidemic. The STURDY Act will modernize standards to apply to dressers under 30 inches; accurately simulate the weight of a 6-year-old; and account for real-world dynamics, such as the movement of drawers and different flooring surfaces.

By setting mandatory standards, the STURDY Act will better enable the CPSC to enforce requirements and facilitate recalls. The legislation will expedite the CPSC's rulemaking process, ensuring these lifesaving protections are in our homes as soon as possible.

That is the robust action we need to end this tip-over epidemic.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the STURDY Act, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, first, let me extend my condolences to the friend of Mr. LONG's family.

This is really poignant, that Mr. LONG is carrying this bill today on the floor of the House of Representatives. Hopefully, none of us see such an accident again.

Mr. Speaker, I include three letters for the RECORD: a letter from 20 national organizations and more than 50 State and local organizations that represent pediatricians and consumers throughout the United States, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Reports, and Kids In Danger, among many others, urging strong support of the STURDY Act; a letter from Parents Against Tip-Overs, parents of actual children who have died, also urging strong support by Members of the STURDY Act; and a letter from Consumer Reports, also urging strong support by our colleagues for the STURDY Act.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As organizations dedicated to children's health and safety, we write to express our strong support for three bills as they move to the House floor. These bills would improve protections against preventable sleep-related deaths, as well as injuries and deaths from preventable furniture tip-overs. We urge you to support these bills to protect children from injuries and deaths.

The Safe Sleep for Babies Act of 2019 (H.R. 3172) would ban infant inclined sleep products, such as the recently recalled Fisher-Price Rock 'n Play Sleeper, which have been linked to the deaths of at least 50 infants. While there have been four recent recalls related to this product type, similar unsafe products of this type remain on the market. These products are deadly, and their design is inherently unsafe and incompatible with expert safe sleep recommendations, including from the American Academy of Pediatrics. This legislation would help prevent more families from experiencing the tragedy of losing a child by banning the products' manufacture, import, and sale.

The Safe Cribs Act of 2019 (H.R. 3170) would ban crib bumper pads. Bumper pads have led to dozens of infant suffocation deaths and do not offer protection to babies. These products are also inconsistent with expert safe sleep recommendations. Maryland, Ohio, New York State, Chicago, Illinois, and Watchung, New Jersey have taken action to protect babies. If H.R. 3170 becomes law, all babies in the Unites States would be similarly protected. This legislation would help prevent more families from experiencing the tragedy of losing a child to crib bumper pads by banning their manufacture, import, and sale altogether.

The STURDY Act (H.R. 2211) would direct the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to create a mandatory clothing storage unit standard to help prevent furniture tip-overs. According to the CPSC, one child dies every ten days from a tip-over. Stronger product testing and safety requirements could prevent these fatalities. This bill is critically important because it would establish a strong mandatory standard for furniture stability. The STURDY Act would require the CPSC to create a mandatory rule that would: cover all clothing storage units, including those 30 inches in height or shorter; require testing to simulate the weights of children up to 72 months old; require testing measures to account for scenarios involving carpeting, loaded drawers, multiple open drawers, and the dynamic force of a climbing child; mandate strong warning requirements; and require the CPSC to issue the mandatory standard within one year of enactment. To protect children from furniture tip-overs, we need a strong mandatory standard and the STURDY Act includes those critically needed provisions.

These bills offer a vital opportunity to protect children from preventable injuries and deaths. We urge you to support these child health and safety bills, and to vote ''yes'' on them as they move to the House floor.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

American Academy of Pediatrics; Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs; Center for Justice & Democracy; Child Care Aware of America; Child Injury Prevention Alliance; Children's Advocacy Institute; Consumer Federation of America; Consumer Reports; Cribs for Kids, Inc.; First Focus Campaign for Children; Keeping Babies Safe; Kids In Danger; MomsRising; National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; National Consumers League; Parents for Window Blind Safety; Public Citizen; Safe Kids Worldwide; Safe States Alliance; The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR).

State and Local Organizations:

Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG); American Academy of Pediatrics—Arizona Chapter; American Academy of Pediatrics—California Chapter 3; American Academy of Pediatrics—Hawaii Chapter; American Academy of Pediatrics—Georgia Chapter; American Academy of Pediatrics—New York Chapter 1; American Academy of Pediatrics—New York Chapter 2; American Academy of Pediatrics—New York Chapter 3; American Academy of Pediatrics—Vermont Chapter; American Academy of Pediatrics—Colorado Chapter; American Academy of Pediatrics—Orange County Chapter; Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago; Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics.

California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics; Chicago Consumer Coalition; Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin; Consumer Assistance Council, Inc.; Consumer Assistance Council, Inc.; DC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Delaware Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Empire State Consumer Project; Florida Chapter—American Academy of Pediatrics; Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Illinois Action for Children; Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Island Pediatrics of Honolulu.

Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Michigan Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics; Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; New Mexico Pediatric Society; North Carolina Pediatric Society.

Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; OHSU/Doembecher Tom Sargent Safety Center; Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Ounce of Prevention Fund; Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Sudden Infant Death Services of Illinois, Inc.; Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Virginia Citizens Consumer Council; Virginia Citizens Consumer Council; Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Wyckoff Hospital; Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

PARENTS AGAINST TIP-OVERS,
September 16, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As a parent group directly impacted by the dangers of unstable furniture, Parents Against Tip-overs is writing to express our strong support for H.R. 2211, the STURDY Act, as it moves to the House floor. This bill is desperately needed,

as it would reduce injuries and deaths from preventable furniture tip-overs. Furniture tip-over is not a partisan issue, but one of safety, and we urge you to support this bill to protect your most vulnerable constituents, the children.

One of our founding members, Crystal Ellis, had the opportunity to testify in front of the Consumer Protection Subcommittee about the STURDY Act, on what would have been her son, Camden's 7th birthday. He was tragically killed in a furniture tip-over incident that happened just two days before his second birthday. All of our children deserve to be here and would have been here, had a strong mandatory standard, that takes into account real world use, would have been put into place sooner. The industry has been working on a standard for almost two decades with no significant change in the data. Furniture manufacturers insist that they need more data. Their data, as Crystal explained in her testimony, is our dead and injured children. We do not need more data. If after 19 years there is not an adequate voluntary standard in place, it's unlikely there will ever be an effective furniture safety standard that will reduce injuries and deaths to children without the STURDY Act becoming law. The industry clearly won't make this happen without direction from Congress. We need your help. If this law existed 14 years ago, all of the PAT children would still be alive today. The STURDY Act will save lives and the time to put it in place is now.

The STURDY Act (H.R. 2211) would direct the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to create a mandatory clothing storage unit standard to help prevent furniture tip-overs. According to the CPSC, one child dies every ten days from a tip-over. Stronger product testing and safety requirements could prevent these fatalities. This bill is critically important because it would establish a strong mandatory standard for furniture stability. The STURDY Act would require the CPSC to create a mandatory rule that would: cover all clothing storage units, including those 30 inches in height or shorter; require testing to simulate the weights of children up to 72 months old; require testing measures to account for scenarios involving carpeting, loaded drawers, multiple open drawers, and the dynamic force of a climbing child; mandate strong warning requirements; and require the CPSC to issue the mandatory standard within one year of enactment. To protect children from furniture tip-overs, we need a strong mandatory standard and the STURDY Act includes those critically needed provisions.

This bill offers you, as the voice of parents and children in the House of Representatives, a vital opportunity to protect children from preventable injuries and deaths from furniture tip-overs. We respectfully urge you to support the STURDY Act and to vote ''yes'' on it as it moves to the House floor.

Sincerely,

CRYSTAL ELLIS,
Parents Against Tip-overs Founding Member.

CONSUMER REPORTS,
September 17, 2019.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Consumer Reports, the independent, non-profit member organization, urges you to vote yes on H.R. 2211, H.R. 1618, and H.R. 806, three bills that would help protect consumers from product safety hazards in their homes. CR testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in support of these bills in June, and urges their passage today for the reasons below.

H.R. 2211, THE STURDY ACT

Consumer Reports strongly supports H.R. 2211, the ''Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act,'' or the STURDY Act, and urges its swift passage. The bill would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to establish a strong mandatory safety standard to improve the stability of dressers and similar clothing storage furniture and help prevent deaths and injuries resulting from when they tip over onto children. Long a hidden hazard in the home, tip-overs send thousands of people to the emergency room annually. Dressers and other clothing storage units are particularly lethal, accounting for at least 206 reported deaths since the year 2000, with most of the victims being children younger than age 6.

CR has found that the most effective and most widely touted tip-over prevention strategy available today—anchoring a dresser to the wall using brackets and straps—is not an easy fix for the majority of consumers. Our nationally representative survey last year of 1,502 U.S. adults found that only 27% of Americans had anchored furniture in their homes, and among Americans with kids under age 6 at home, 40% anchored their furniture. Fundamentally, because a child's life should not rely on consumer skill at anchoring a dresser to a wall, CR has called on the furniture industry to consistently produce dressers and other clothing storage units that are designed to be more stable and that better resist tipping over onto children.

Over the past two years, CR has conducted extensive research, analysis of incident and injury data, and comparative testing of a cross-section of dressers in the marketplace. Based on our investigation, we found that the industry's voluntary standard leaves too many children at risk. Our results demonstrated that it is feasible for dressers at all price points to pass a more rigorous test. CR bought 42 dressers for evaluation, and put them through a series of three progressively tougher stability tests. While 13 dressers failed all but the first of the tests, 20 dressers passed all the testing, underscoring that manufacturers are capable of successfully designing more stable dressers. The failures reinforce why a stronger standard is necessary to protect consumers. The 20 dressers that passed all our tests cost various amounts, and were representative of all price points in the market.

In light of the unreasonable risk of death or injury to children and the findings of our investigation, CR and others have been advocating for the CPSC to develop and implement a strong mandatory safety standard with performance requirements for the stability of dressers and other clothing storage units. While both Republican and Democratic CPSC commissioners have expressed support for measures to strengthen the current safety framework around furniture tip-overs, the agency has so far failed to act, and commissioners have recognized that CPSC rulemaking under its Consumer Product Safety Act Section 7 and 9 authority is likely to take several years, if not a full decade, to complete. To account for the weight of children under age 6 and the feasibility demonstrated by CR's test results, CR has said the standard should, at a minimum, include a loaded stability test of 60 pounds. We also have said that it is critical for the standard to be mandatory, not voluntary, for several reasons, including because:

Under the current system of safety oversight, consumers essentially must place their trust in manufacturers that they will produce a reasonably stable dresser;

Wall anchors and other tip-over restraint devices, while important, are no substitute for adequate stability performance testing;

A mandatory standard is justified under the Consumer Product Safety Act—with the CPSC able to find that such a rule is reasonably necessary and in the public interest;

CR's testing shows that manufacturers are capable of incorporating appropriate design changes to their products that yield adequate stability, and of offering units for sale to consumers that are affordable and do not sacrifice utility; and

Such a standard would allow the CPSC to enforce requirements, including performance standards, and more readily gain industry cooperation for recalls; historically, companies have not carried out tip-over-related dresser recalls unless they face overwhelming CPSC and public pressure, or their product is linked to a death or failed CPSC stability test.

Enactment of the STURDY Act would help ensure the fastest possible implementation of a strong stability standard, and the reduced delay could save children's lives. In addition to CR, the bill has the support of *Parents Against Tip-Overs* and a broad coalition of 75 pediatrician, safety, and consumer groups. A bipartisan majority of CPSC commissioners also has expressed support for the STURDY Act and enactment of a legislative solution that would permit the CPSC to take faster action to help prevent tip-overs than the promulgation of a rule under its traditional rulemaking authority and procedures.

The hazard to children of furniture tip-overs has been insufficiently addressed by both the furniture industry and the CPSC for years. Congress, today, has the chance to finally force a more protective stability standard to take effect. We urge members to seize this opportunity for leadership on behalf of child safety and pass H.R. 2211, the STURDY Act, without delay.

H.R. 1618, THE NICHOLAS AND ZACHARY BURT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION ACT

Consumer Reports supports H.R. 1618, the Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019. According to the CDC, during 2010–2015, a total of 2,244 deaths resulted from unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, with 393 of those deaths occurring in 2015. CR often stresses the importance of installing and maintaining CO detectors, and offers a buying guide and ratings to give consumers comparative information about different products that CR has tested. To help keep consumers safe, CR also has published stories about how to ensure that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors function properly.

H.R. 1618 would establish a grant program for CO poisoning prevention, administered by the CPSC. The grants would help push states to require that up-to-date carbon monoxide detectors be installed in all dwelling units and numerous other facilities with the capacity to hold a large number of people, and encourage states to develop a strategy to protect vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, or low-income households. With hundreds of people dying each year from carbon monoxide poisoning, it is appropriate to establish a modest CPSC-administered grant program to promote the installation of CO detectors, especially for vulnerable populations. This grant program can be an important part of a broader, multi-pronged strategy to significantly reduce injuries and deaths associated with carbon monoxide poisoning, and Congress should pass the bill.

H.R. 806, THE PORTABLE FUEL CONTAINER SAFETY ACT

Consumer Reports supports H.R. 806, the Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019. According to National Fire Protection Association estimates, fire departments responded to an average of 160,910 fires per year in the 2007–2011 period that started with ignition of a flammable or combustible liquid, resulting in an estimated 454 civilian

deaths, 3,910 civilian injuries, and $1.5 billion in direct property damage per year. Manufacturers and safety experts have identified a portion of the death and injury toll to address through product design: incidents involving flame jetting from portable fuel containers intended for reuse by consumers.

Despite the fact that people should never pour fuel such as gasoline, kerosene, or diesel over a flame or use such fuel for fire-starting purposes, people do—creating a foreseeable scenario that this Act would help address. The Portable Fuel Container Safety Act would require flame mitigation devices, or flame arrestors, to prevent flame from entering these containers and igniting the gases inside. This requirement is consistent with a new voluntary standard recently finalized by ASTM International that the CPSC could decide to treat as a mandatory standard under the bill if the agency determines that it meets the bill's minimum conditions.

The new ASTM standard represents a step forward for safety, and all portable fuel containers intended for reuse by consumers should conform to its provisions. Congress should pass H.R. 806 to ensure this standard or a similar standard becomes mandatory. Consumers should have assurance that any new portable fuel container they may buy—which they or someone else may use or misuse—will contain an effective flame mitigation device, and that the CPSC can readily take action if a manufacturer fails to follow the law.

CONCLUSION

Consumer Reports thanks all members of the House of Representatives for their consideration of these important bills to improve safety around the home for millions of people nationwide. We urge you to vote yes on H.R. 2211, H.R. 1618, and H.R. 806, and look forward to working together in the future to ensure a safe marketplace for all consumers.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM WALLACE,
Manager, Home and Safety Policy.

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

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I encourage our colleagues to vote for H.R. 2211. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2211. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2211, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NICHOLAS AND ZACHARY BURT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION ACT OF 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1618) to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1618

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning any fuel. Exposure to unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, a serious health condition that could result in death.

(2) Unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning from motor vehicles and the abnormal operation of fuel-burning appliances, such as furnaces, water heaters, portable generators, and stoves, kills more than 400 people each year and sends more than 15,000 to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.

(3) Research shows that purchasing and installing carbon monoxide alarms close to the sleeping areas in residential homes and other dwelling units can help avoid fatalities.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress should promote the purchase and installation of carbon monoxide alarms in residential homes and dwelling units nationwide in order to promote the health and public safety of citizens throughout the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM.—The term ''carbon monoxide alarm'' means a device or system that—

(A) detects carbon monoxide; and

(B) is intended to alarm at carbon monoxide concentrations below those that could cause a loss of ability to react to the dangers of carbon monoxide exposure.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

(3) COMPLIANT CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM.—The term ''compliant carbon monoxide alarm'' means a carbon monoxide alarm that complies with the most current version of—

(A) the American National Standard for Single and Multiple Station Carbon Monoxide Alarms (ANSI/UL 2034); or

(B) the American National Standard for Gas and Vapor Detectors and Sensors (ANSI/UL 2075).

(4) DWELLING UNIT.—The term ''dwelling unit'' means a room or suite of rooms used for human habitation, and includes a single family residence as well as each living unit of a multiple family residence (including apartment buildings) and each living unit in a mixed use building.

(5) FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.—The term ''fire code enforcement officials'' means officials of the fire safety code enforcement agency of a State or local government.

(6) INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE.—The term ''IFC'' means—

(A) the 2015 or 2018 edition of the International Fire Code published by the International Code Council; or

(B) any amended or similar successor code pertaining to the proper installation of carbon monoxide alarms in dwelling units.

(7) INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE.—The term ''IRC'' means—

(A) the 2015 or 2018 edition of the International Residential Code published by the International Code Council; or

(B) any amended or similar successor code pertaining to the proper installation of carbon monoxide alarms in dwelling units.

(8) NFPA 72.—The term ''NFPA 72'' means—

(A) the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code issued in 2019 by the National Fire Protection Association; or

(B) any amended or similar successor standard pertaining to the proper installation of carbon monoxide alarms in dwelling units.

(9) STATE.—The term ''State'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052) and includes the Northern Mariana Islands and any political subdivision of a State.

SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations authorized under subsection (f), the Commission shall establish a grant program to provide assistance to eligible States to carry out the carbon monoxide poisoning prevention activities described in subsection (e).

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, an eligible State is any State that—

(1) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commission that the State has adopted a statute or a rule, regulation, or similar measure with the force and effect of law, requiring compliant carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in dwelling units in accordance with NFPA 72, the IFC, or the IRC; and

(2) submits an application to the Commission at such time, in such form, and containing such additional information as the Commission may require, which application may be filed on behalf of the State by the fire code enforcement officials for such State.

(c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Commission shall determine the amount of the grants awarded under this section.

(d) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—In selecting eligible States for the award of grants under this section, the Commission shall give favorable consideration to an eligible State that—

(1) requires the installation of compliant carbon monoxide alarms in new or existing educational facilities, childcare facilities, health care facilities, adult dependent care facilities, government buildings, restaurants, theaters, lodging establishments, or dwelling units—

(A) within which a fuel-burning appliance is installed, including a furnace, boiler, water heater, fireplace, or any other apparatus, appliance, or device that burns fuel; or

(B) which has an attached garage; and

(2) has developed a strategy to protect vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, or low-income households.

(e) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible State receiving a grant under this section may use such grant—

(A) to purchase and install compliant carbon monoxide alarms in the dwelling units of low-income families or elderly persons, facilities that commonly serve children or the elderly, including childcare facilities, public schools, and senior centers, or student dwelling units owned by public universities;

(B) to train State or local fire code enforcement officials in the proper enforcement of State or local laws concerning compliant carbon monoxide alarms and the installation of such alarms in accordance with NFPA 72, the IFC, or the IRC;

(C) for the development and dissemination of training materials, instructors, and any other costs related to the training sessions authorized by this subsection; and

(D) to educate the public about the risk associated with carbon monoxide as a poison and the importance of proper carbon monoxide alarm use.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 10 percent of any grant amount received

under this section may be used to cover administrative costs not directly related to training described in paragraph (1)(B).

(B) PUBLIC OUTREACH.—Not more than 25 percent of any grant amount received under this section may be used to cover costs of activities described in paragraph (1)(D).

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission, for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2024, $2,000,000, which shall remain available until expended to carry out this Act.

(2) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to carry out this section may be used for administrative expenses.

(3) RETENTION OF AMOUNTS.—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection that remain unexpended and unobligated on September 30, 2024, shall be retained by the Commission and credited to the appropriations account that funds the enforcement of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051).

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the last day of each fiscal year for which grants are awarded under this section, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report that evaluates the implementation of the grant program required by this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 1618.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1618, the Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019. This important bipartisan legislation was introduced by Representatives ANNIE KUSTER and BUDDY CARTER.

This bill advanced out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on July 17, 2019, by voice vote, unanimous.

Carbon monoxide—colorless, odorless, tasteless—is a silent killer. More than 400 people die and approximately 50,000 people visit emergency rooms every year in the United States from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The tragedy is that these deaths and injuries are preventable. All that is needed is the installation of carbon monoxide detectors. However, many people remain unaware of the importance of carbon monoxide detectors or don't know how to install or maintain them properly.

□ 1615

This legislation aims to change that. It will assist States in educating the public on the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and the proper use of carbon monoxide detectors.

It will also provide States with grants so States can purchase and install carbon monoxide detectors in the homes of elderly and low-income citizens, as well as in educational facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all my colleagues to support this commonsense measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2019.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: I am writing to you regarding H.R. 1618, the ''Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019.'' This measure, introduced on March 7, 2019, was referred to your committee as well as the Committee on House Administration.

The Committee on House Administration agrees to waive further consideration of H.R. 1618. The Committee does so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of this bill it does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1618 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2019.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
Chair, Committee on House Administration, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRPERSON LOFGREN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Energy and Commerce and agreeing to discharge H.R. 1618 Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Act of 2019 from further consideration, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

As introduced, H.R. 1618, includes language related to the Government Publishing Office. I understand such language was included by bill sponsors in H.R. 1618 and previous versions of this legislation in an effort to comply with a House CUTGO rule that was in effect during prior Congresses.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

I will ensure our letters on H.R. 1618 are entered into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, once again, I can relate to what this bill is trying to address. I was an auctioneer for over 30 years before I came to this body, and there was a college professor who attended hundreds of my auctions over the years. He was quite a toy collector, and he was also a professor at Missouri State University in my hometown of Springfield. Very tragically, within the last couple of years, he and his wife both succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning.

It is a silent killer. It can happen anywhere. There is no warning—any time, any place. Anything we can do to augment a solution here would be very, very good.

H.R. 1618 directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a grant program for States to purchase and install carbon monoxide alarms in dwelling units of low-income families; for the elderly; facilities that commonly serve children or the elderly, including childcare facilities, public schools, and senior centers; or dwelling units owned by public universities; and to assist in enforcement and education efforts related to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide poisoning can happen anywhere in the United States, regardless of location or other external factors. It is an issue that is much more frequent than many realize.

According to the CDC, 50,000 people a year in the United States experience carbon monoxide poisoning. Of those, at least 430 people die from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

These grants will go a long way to carrying out carbon monoxide poisoning prevention actions, as they can be used for everything from installing alarms in these units of elderly individuals to training officials in the installation of such alarms.

I am pleased to support passage of this bill today. It will improve safety and provide the tools and resources needed to combat this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1618, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for yielding.

I want to say to Representative LONG that I am so sorry for his loss, and, again, it is appropriate to be with him on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, more than 20 years ago, Cheryl and Todd Burt experienced an unimaginable tragedy when their two sons, Zachary and Nicholas, died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Zachary was 4 years old; Nicholas was only 16 months old. Cheryl, Todd, and their eldest son, Ryan, barely made it out of the home alive on that cold January evening.

Today, the House is considering H.R. 1618, the Zachary and Nicholas Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act.

This legislation is named in honor of Zachary and Nicholas, but it is truly for the over 400 Americans who die each year and more than 20,000 who are hospitalized as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Among them are two of my constituents, John and April Courtney from Lyman, New Hampshire, who lost their lives to carbon monoxide poisoning just last February of this year.

While it happens most frequently in cold winter months, carbon monoxide poisoning actually happens throughout this country.

As a mother and an aunt, I know there is nothing more important than keeping our children and our loved ones safe, and that is why I am so proud today that the House is preparing to vote on my bipartisan legislation with my colleague BUDDY CARTER, which provides funding for States to prevent future carbon monoxide-related deaths by educating the public about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and the importance of properly installing alarms in their home.

It also supports the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in housing for the elderly and low-income individuals and high-traffic public buildings like schools. This bipartisan legislation will truly save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my distinguished colleague, BUDDY CARTER, for working on this bill with me and helping to build a consensus for its unanimous passage in the Energy and Commerce Committee. I also want to thank Chairman PALLONE and Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY for making this piece of legislation a priority and including it in the package of bills today.

At a time when Congress so often seems divided, this legislation is proof positive that we can work together on our committee to find common ground and get things done to help our constituents.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank Anna Yu and Alex Chasick from the Energy and Commerce Committee staff and Hart Thompson and Nick Schemmel from Congressman CARTER's office for collaborating with my team, Will Pisano and Travis Krogman, to move this legislation forward.

I am proud that this bill is supported by a diverse coalition of public safety and industry groups, and I include in the RECORD five letters of support.

The first is a letter from 15 national organizations representing consumers throughout the United States. The second is a letter of support from the National Association of State Fire Marshals.

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I will be quick.

The third letter of support is from the National Association of Home Builders, which will demonstrate the bipartisan support. The fourth is from Consumer Reports, and finally one from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As organizations dedicated to improving consumer protections, we write to express our support for two consumer product safety bills as they move to the House floor this week. These bills would enhance protections to prevent deaths from portable fuel cans and injuries and deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning. We urge you to support these bills to protect children and all consumers from preventable injuries and deaths.

The Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019 (H.R. 1618) would establish a grant program, administered by the CPSC, that would encourage states to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors, including for vulnerable populations. According to the CDC, during 2010–2015, a total of 2,244 deaths resulted from unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, with 393 of those deaths occurring in 2015. This bill seeks to reduce carbon monoxide poisonings.

The Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019 (H.R. 806) would help prevent flame-jetting incidents through establishing a binding and enforceable standard that would require flame mitigation devices, or flame arrestors, on portable fuel containers to prevent flames from entering these containers and igniting the gases inside. According to National Fire Protection Association estimates, fire departments responded to an average of 160,910 fires per year between 2007 and 2011 that started with ignition of a flammable or combustible liquid, resulting in an estimated 454 civilian deaths, 3,910 civilian injuries, and $1.5 billion in direct property damage per year.

These bills offer a critical opportunity to protect children and all consumers from preventable injuries and deaths. We urge you to support these child health and safety bills, and to vote ''yes'' on them as they move to the House floor this week.

Sincerely,

Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG), Center for Justice & Democracy, Chicago Consumer Coalition, Child Injury Prevention Alliance, Consumer Assistance Council, Inc., Consumer Federation of America, Kids In Danger, National Consumers League, OHSU/Doernbecher Tom Sargent Safety Center, Parents for Window Blind Safety, Public Citizen, Safe Kids Worldwide, Safe States Alliance, The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR), Virginia Citizens Consumer Council.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS,
Maitland, FL, September 16, 2019.

Hon. ANN KUSTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN KUSTER: The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) thanks you for your continued leadership in consumer product safety issues, and specifically in protecting Americans from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. NASFM strongly endorses H.R. 1618, the Nicholas and Zachary Burt Memorial Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019.

The National Association of State Fire Marshals membership comprises the most senior fire officials in the United States. NASFM's mission is to protect human life, property and the environment from fire and related hazards. As such, we are extremely supportive of your legislation, which will amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to require residential carbon monoxide alarms to meet the applicable ANSI/UL standards by treating that standard as a consumer product safety rule, to encourage States to require the installation of such detectors in homes, and in an overall effort to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon Monoxide poisoning is a proven dangerous threat, claiming approximately 450 lives annually, with another 21,000 Americans sent to emergency rooms due to unintentional poisonings, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Per the CDC, CO poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America, and because CO is an odorless, tasteless and colorless gas, many people are initially unaware they are even being poisoned.

''The National Association of State Fire Marshals enthusiastically supports H.R. 1618, the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019,'' said NASFM Executive Director Jim Narva, ''It's important we all strive to mitigate the potentially fatal effects of CO Poisoning. With States focusing on low-income families, the elderly and children, the enactment of this Bill and its grant program will save countless lives.''

Thank you again for your leadership on the carbon monoxide alarm issue and we look forward to working to enact into law this important public safety prevention legislation.

Sincerely,

JIM NARVA,
Executive Director,
National Association of State Fire Marshals.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS,
September 16, 2019.

Hon. ANN KUSTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. BUDDY CARTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES KUSTER AND CARTER: On behalf of the approximately 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I am writing to express my support for H.R. 1618, Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019. We appreciate your willingness to work with us on this important issue.

The Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019 would create a grant program to encourage states to install carbon monoxide detectors in public facilities. NAHB members are involved in land development and building single-family and multi-family housing, remodeling, and other aspects of residential and light commercial construction. While our members are typically not involved in building schools, hospitals, airports, and other public buildings, we recognize the importance of requiring carbon monoxide detectors.

According to the Center of Disease Control, at least 430 people die in the United States from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. As a response, majority of the states have adopted statues, via building codes or state law, that requires carbon monoxide detectors in all residential buildings. NAHB supports legislation like this that promotes the safety of occupants in a cost-effective way.

NAHB appreciates your leadership on this life saving legislation and we look forward to working with you on future legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES W. TOBIN III.

CONSUMER REPORTS,
September 17, 2019.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Consumer Reports, the independent, non-profit member organization, urges you to vote yes on H.R. 2211, H.R. 1618, and H.R. 806, three bills that would

help protect consumers from product safety hazards in their homes. CR testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in support of these bills in June, and urges their passage today for the reasons below.

H.R. 2211, THE STURDY ACT

Consumer Reports strongly supports H.R. 2211, the ''Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act,'' or the STURDY Act, and urges its swift passage. The bill would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to establish a strong mandatory safety standard to improve the stability of dressers and similar clothing storage furniture and help prevent deaths and injuries resulting from when they tip over onto children. Long a hidden hazard in the home, tip-overs send thousands of people to the emergency room annually. Dressers and other clothing storage units are particularly lethal, accounting for at least 206 reported deaths since the year 2000, with most of the victims being children younger than age 6.

CR has found that the most effective and most widely touted tip-over prevention strategy available today—anchoring a dresser to the wall using brackets and straps—is not an easy fix for the majority of consumers. Our nationally representative survey last year of 1,502 U.S. adults found that only 27 percent of Americans had anchored furniture in their homes, and among Americans with kids under age 6 at home, 40 percent anchored their furniture. Fundamentally, because a child's life should not rely on consumer skill at anchoring a dresser to a wall, CR has called on the furniture industry to consistently produce dressers and other clothing storage units that are designed to be more stable and that better resist tipping over onto children.

Over the past two years, CR has conducted extensive research, analysis of incident and injury data, and comparative testing of a cross-section of dressers in the marketplace. Based on our investigation, we found that the industry's voluntary standard leaves too many children at risk. Our results demonstrated that it is feasible for dressers at all price points to pass a more rigorous test. CR bought 42 dressers for evaluation, and put them through a series of three progressively tougher stability tests. While 13 dressers failed all but the first of the tests, 20 dressers passed all the testing, underscoring that manufacturers are capable of successfully designing more stable dressers. The failures reinforce why a stronger standard is necessary to protect consumers. The 20 dressers that passed all our tests cost various amounts, and were representative of all price points in the market.

In light of the unreasonable risk of death or injury to children and the findings of our investigation, CR and others have been advocating for the CPSC to develop and implement a strong mandatory safety standard with performance requirements for the stability of dressers and other clothing storage units. While both Republican and Democratic CPSC commissioners have expressed support for measures to strengthen the current safety framework around furniture tip-overs, the agency has so far failed to act, and commissioners have recognized that CPSC rulemaking under its Consumer Product Safety Act Section 7 and 9 authority is likely to take several years, if not a full decade, to complete. To account for the weight of children under age 6 and the feasibility demonstrated by CR's test results, CR has said the standard should, at a minimum, include a loaded stability test of 60 pounds. We also have said that it is critical for the standard to be mandatory, not voluntary, for several reasons, including because:

Under the current system of safety oversight, consumers essentially must place their trust in manufacturers that they will produce a reasonably stable dresser;

Wall anchors and other tip-over restraint devices, while important, are no substitute for adequate stability performance testing;

A mandatory standard is justified under the Consumer Product Safety Act—with the CPSC able to find that such a rule is reasonably necessary and in the public interest;

CR's testing shows that manufacturers are capable of incorporating appropriate design changes to their products that yield adequate stability, and of offering units for sale to consumers that are affordable and do not sacrifice utility; and

Such a standard would allow the CPSC to enforce requirements, including performance standards, and more readily gain industry cooperation for recalls; historically, companies have not carried out tip-over-related dresser recalls unless they face overwhelming CPSC and public pressure, or their product is linked to a death or failed CPSC stability test.

Enactment of the STURDY Act would help ensure the fastest possible implementation of a strong stability standard, and the reduced delay could save children's lives. In addition to CR, the bill has the support of Parents Against Tip-Overs and a broad coalition of 75 pediatrician, safety, and consumer groups. A bipartisan majority of CPSC commissioners also has expressed support for the STURDY Act and enactment of a legislative solution that would permit the CPSC to take faster action to help prevent tip-overs than the promulgation of a rule under its traditional rulemaking authority and procedures.

The hazard to children of furniture tip-overs has been insufficiently addressed by both the furniture industry and the CPSC for years. Congress, today, has the chance to finally force a more protective stability standard to take effect. We urge members to seize this opportunity for leadership on behalf of child safety and pass H.R. 2211, the STURDY Act, without delay.

H.R. 1618, THE NICHOLAS AND ZACHARY BURT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION ACT

Consumer Reports supports H.R. 1618, the Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019. According to the CDC, during 2010–2015, a total of 2,244 deaths resulted from unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, with 393 of those deaths occurring in 2015. CR often stresses the importance of installing and maintaining CO detectors, and offers a buying guide and ratings to give consumers comparative information about different products that CR has tested. To help keep consumers safe, CR also has published stories about how to ensure that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors function properly.

H.R. 1618 would establish a grant program for CO poisoning prevention, administered by the CPSC. The grants would help push states to require that up-to-date carbon monoxide detectors be installed in all dwelling units and numerous other facilities with the capacity to hold a large number of people, and encourage states to develop a strategy to protect vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, or low-income households. With hundreds of people dying each year from carbon monoxide poisoning, it is appropriate to establish a modest CPSC-administered grant program to promote the installation of CO detectors, especially for vulnerable populations. This grant program can be an important part of a broader, multi-pronged strategy to significantly reduce injuries and deaths associated with carbon monoxide poisoning, and Congress should pass the bill.

H.R. 806, THE PORTABLE FUEL CONTAINER SAFETY ACT

Consumer Reports supports H.R. 806, the Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019. According to National Fire Protection Association estimates, fire departments responded to an average of 160,910 fires per year in the 2007–2011 period that started with ignition of a flammable or combustible liquid, resulting in an estimated 454 civilian deaths, 3,910 civilian injuries, and $1.5 billion in direct property damage per year. Manufacturers and safety experts have identified a portion of the death and injury toll to address through product design: incidents involving flame jetting from portable fuel containers intended for reuse by consumers.

Despite the fact that people should never pour fuel such as gasoline, kerosene, or diesel over a flame or use such fuel for fire-starting purposes, people do—creating a foreseeable scenario that this Act would help address. The Portable Fuel Container Safety Act would require flame mitigation devices, or flame arrestors, to prevent flame from entering these containers and igniting the gases inside. This requirement is consistent with a new voluntary standard recently finalized by ASTM International that the CPSC could decide to treat as a mandatory standard under the bill if the agency determines that it meets the bill's minimum conditions.

The new ASTM standard represents a step forward for safety, and all portable fuel containers intended for reuse by consumers should conform to its provisions. Congress should pass H.R. 806 to ensure this standard or a similar standard becomes mandatory. Consumers should have assurance that any new portable fuel container they may buy—which they or someone else may use or misuse—will contain an effective flame mitigation device, and that the CPSC can readily take action if a manufacturer fails to follow the law.

CONCLUSION

Consumer Reports thanks all members of the House of Representatives for their consideration of these important bills to improve safety around the home for millions of people nationwide. We urge you to vote yes on H.R. 2211, H.R. 1618, and H.R. 806, and look forward to working together in the future to ensure a safe marketplace for all consumers.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM WALLACE,
Manager, Home and Safety Policy.

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION,
September 9, 2019.

Re NEMA Support for H.R. 1618—Nicholas and Zachary Burt Memorial Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act.

Hon. ANN M. KUSTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUSTER: The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) is the principal trade group representing U.S.-based manufacturers of electrical products and systems and medical imaging technology. On behalf of NEMA's Fire, Life Safety, Security & Emergency Communications product section, I am writing to express support for H.R. 1618, which promotes the purchase and installation of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in residential homes and dwelling units nationwide. This measure is overdue and NEMA commends you for your leadership on this important health & safety issue.

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer. Undetectable by human senses—you cannot see it, smell it or taste it—CO is the leading cause of accidental poisoning death in the

United States. Often misdiagnosed or underdetected, CO poisoning induces symptoms that mimic those of the flu, with headache, nausea and dizziness being the most common. A CO alarm or detector is an inexpensive, effective way to warn that a dangerous concentration of CO is present, which can occur whenever a fuel-burning appliance such as a furnace, water heater, stove, or generator malfunctions or is used improperly. Other common household sources of CO include fireplaces and vehicles left running in attached garages.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each year more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning not linked to fires, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room, and more than 4,000 are hospitalized. Regrettably, many of these incidents could be prevented by properly installed and maintained alarm systems.

The need for detection and alarms is especially acute in homes, where people sleep and typically spend most of their time. Any residence that contains a potential source of CO emissions should be equipped with protection from this insidious life-safety hazard.

Most states (as well as Puerto Rico and Guam) have enacted laws requiring CO detection in residential dwellings, and it is likely that more will adopt similar legislation or codes in the coming years. These measures—along with education efforts—have proven successful in reducing CO-related injuries and deaths, but laws alone do not guarantee that protection is in place wherever it is needed.

The Nicholas and Zachary Burt Memorial Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act will help states and local governments implement these programs and provide greater assurance that families are protecting themselves and their loved ones from CO. NEMA particularly supports the bill's emphasis on facilities that serve children and the elderly, since they are especially susceptible to the effects of CO exposure. All schools should have proper CO detection systems in place and NEMA welcomes federal support in this regard.

NEMA's Fire, Life Safety, Security & Emergency Communications product section includes the world's leading manufacturers of systems and devices that guard against not only CO but other commonplace life safety hazards such as fire and smoke. These companies strongly endorse measures that help to reduce these hazards in more spaces and environments where people gather. H.R. 1618 is an important step in that regard and NEMA is pleased to support its enactment.

Very truly yours,

PHILIP SQUAIR,
Vice President—Government Relations.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. So, again, Mr. Speaker, this bill has strong bipartisan support, and I encourage all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

When we go home, people say: Well, can't you all agree on anything up there in Washington, because all you all do is fight? Why can't you work in a bipartisan fashion?''

I will admit, sometimes it seems like we can't agree to the fact that the Sun is going to come up in the east tomorrow, but on this bill, there is bipartisan support. We agree.

Mr. Speaker, I want to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1618, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LONG for his work on this legislation. It was really a pleasure to work with him on these bills.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close as well, but I want to say, once in a while we will read in the paper of a family that fell victim to carbon monoxide poisoning, but mostly this is one by one by one, a couple people here, a couple people there, and it doesn't make the headlines as a problem. Yet we heard the numbers, the astonishing numbers of people who fall victim—sometimes, and many times, fatally, not always—to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Again, this is something that is absolutely preventable, and so I am very grateful and hopeful that all our colleagues will support this legislation.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1618, the "Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019."

I thank Congresswoman KUSTER of New Hampshire for introducing this legislation which will save the lives of many children.

H.R. 1618 directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a grant program to provide assistance to States for specified activities related to the prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning, including installation of alarms in certain dwellings and facilities.

More specifically, this grant would assist in installing alarms in dwelling units of low-income families or the elderly, childcare facilities, public schools, senior centers, and student dorms owned by public universities.

In addition to installation efforts, this bill would also assist in enforcement and education efforts related to carbon monoxide detectors.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning fuel.

Exposure to unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, a serious health condition that could result in death.

In the month of August, a carbon monoxide leak at the Raveneaux Apartments in Houston sent eighteen people to the hospital—seven of these victims were children.

This time, all of the victims survived.

More than 150 people in the United States die from carbon monoxide poisoning every year.

Home deaths account for the majority of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning, and research shows that purchasing and installing carbon monoxide alarms close to the sleeping areas in residential homes and other dwelling units can help avoid fatalities.

That is why I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 1618.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1618, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PORTABLE FUEL CONTAINER SAFETY ACT OF 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 806) to require compliant flame mitigation devices to be used on portable fuel containers for flammable liquid fuels, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 806

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS TO PROTECT AGAINST PORTABLE FUEL CONTAINER EXPLOSIONS NEAR OPEN FLAMES OR OTHER IGNITION SOURCES.

(a) RULE ON SAFETY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (referred to in this Act as the ''Commission'') shall promulgate a final rule to require flame mitigation devices in portable fuel containers that impede the propagation of flame into the container, except as provided in subsection (c).

(b) RULEMAKING; CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD.—A rule under subsection (a)—

(1) shall be promulgated in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).

(c) EXCEPTION.—

(1) VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—Subsection (a) shall not apply for a class of portable fuel containers in the scope of this Act if the Commission determines at any time that—

(A) there is a voluntary standard for flame mitigation devices for those containers that impedes the propagation of flame into the container;

(B) the voluntary standard described in subparagraph (A) is or will be in effect not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) the voluntary standard described in subparagraph (A) is developed by ASTM International or such other standard development organization that the Commission determines to have met the intent of this Act.

(2) DETERMINATION REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.—Any determination made by the Commission under this subsection shall be published in the Federal Register.

(d) TREATMENT OF VOLUNTARY STANDARD FOR PURPOSE OF ENFORCEMENT.—If the Commission determines that a voluntary standard meets the conditions described in subsection (c), the requirements of such voluntary standard shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058) beginning on the date which is the later of—

(1) 180 days after publication of the Commission's determination under subsection (c); or

(2) the effective date contained in the voluntary standard.

(e) REVISION OF VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—

(1) NOTICE TO COMMISSION.—If the requirements of a voluntary standard that meet the conditions of subsection (c) are subsequently

revised, the organization that revised the standard shall notify the Commission after the final approval of the revision.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF REVISION.—Not later than 180 days after the Commission is notified of a revised voluntary standard described in paragraph (1) (or such later date as the Commission determines appropriate), such revised voluntary standard shall become enforceable as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058), in place of the prior version, unless within 90 days after receiving the notice the Commission determines that the revised voluntary standard does not meet the requirements described in subsection (c).

(f) FUTURE RULEMAKING.—The Commission, at any time after publication of the consumer product safety rule required by subsection (a), a voluntary standard is treated as a consumer product safety rule under subsection (d), or a revision is enforceable as a consumer product safety rule under subsection (e) may initiate a rulemaking in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to modify the requirements or to include any additional provision that the Commission determines is reasonably necessary to protect the public against flame jetting from a portable fuel container. Any rule promulgated under this subsection shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).

(g) ACTION REQUIRED.—

(1) EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall undertake a campaign to educate consumers about the dangers associated with using or storing portable fuel containers for flammable liquids near an open flame or any other source of ignition.

(2) SUMMARY OF ACTIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress a summary of actions taken by the Commission in such campaign.

(h) PORTABLE FUEL CONTAINER DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''portable fuel container'' means any container or vessel (including any spout, cap, and other closure mechanism or component of such container or vessel or any retrofit or aftermarket spout or component intended or reasonably anticipated to be for use with such container)—

(1) intended for flammable liquid fuels with a flash point less than 140 degrees Fahrenheit, including gasoline, kerosene, diesel, ethanol, methanol, denatured alcohol, or biofuels;

(2) that is a consumer product with a capacity of 5 gallons or less; and

(3) that the manufacturer knows or reasonably should know is used by consumers for transporting, storing, and dispensing flammable liquid fuels.

(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section may not be interpreted to conflict with the Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act (Public Law 110–278; 122 Stat. 2602).

SEC. 3. CHILDREN'S GASOLINE BURN PREVENTION ACT.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 2(c) of the Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act (15 U.S.C. 2056 note; Public Law 110–278) is amended by inserting after ''for use by consumers'' the following: ''and any receptacle for gasoline, kerosene, or diesel fuel, including any spout, cap, and other closure mechanism and component of such receptacle or any retrofit or aftermarket spout or component intended or reasonably anticipated to be for use with such receptacle, produced or distributed for sale to or use by consumers for transport of, or refueling of internal combustion engines with, gasoline, kerosene, or diesel fuel''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect 6 months after the date of enactment of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 806.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 806, the Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019.

This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Representative MIKE THOMPSON and DAVID JOYCE, a bipartisan cosponsorship. It was advanced out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on July 17, 2019, by voice vote.

Portable fuel containers are used for many everyday purposes by adults and kids alike. For example, we might see them used to transport or store fuel for the lawnmower or the backyard fire pit, and your son or daughter might use them in their high school chemistry class.

What many users don't realize is that these containers are highly explosive. Each year, they send thousands of people to the emergency room, including with third-degree burns.

The explosions that they make, known as flame jetting, occur when flammable vapors escape from the open nozzle and are ignited.

These explosions, however, are preventable. A small piece of mesh, known as a flame arrester, can be added to the container's spout to eliminate the conditions that create explosions, and they cost just pennies. There is no reason they shouldn't be standard in all portable fuel containers.

The Portable Fuel Container Safety Act will make sure that all portable fuel containers have flame mitigation devices, and it will save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my colleagues who introduced this bill. I also want to thank Margrett Lewis, who has witnessed firsthand the horrors of such an explosion and who has been such a fierce advocate for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue a consumer product safety rule to require flame mitigation devices on portable fuel containers. Furthermore, it directs CPSC to conduct an education campaign to alert consumers to the dangers of using or storing portable fuel containers near ignition sources and to report to Congress on the campaign.

In addition, it amends the Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act to expand existing child-resistance requirements for closures for portable gasoline containers to include portable kerosene and diesel fuel containers and component parts.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Margrett Lewis for her tireless efforts to help get this bill across the House floor today. She turned her personal tragedy into passionate advocacy in an effort to prevent others from facing a similar incident.

I thank everybody for their work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. THOMPSON and his bipartisan group of cosponsors, and I am pleased to support addressing this important safety issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 806, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), who really brought this bill to the attention of our committee and subcommittee and garnered the support that is needed to make sure that death, disfigurement, and tragedy don't occur because of these products.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding the time, and for all of her effort and help in making sure this bill passes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my legislation that addresses a dangerous and deadly public safety issue by directing the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a standard for requiring flame mitigation devices to be used in portable fuel containers and to help educate our communities about the dangers of flame jetting.

This issue is very personal to me. I met with local fire officials and Margrett Priest Lewis, a mother and constituent. Margrett's daughter, along with her twin sister and a few friends, were roasting marshmallows. Their portable fireplace used a common biofuel that, unfortunately, did not have a flame mitigation device. As Margrett's daughter went to refuel the outdoor fireplace, the fuel exploded from the bottle in a process called flame jetting, which you heard about earlier. Portable fuel containers are found in households across America and, yet, even when used correctly, like in the case of Margrett's family, present a risk for severe injury and, in some cases, death.

This story of survival and Margrett's advocacy on behalf of burn survivors

has inspired my legislation, and she has been the driving force behind this bill.

Flammable or combustible liquids cause over 160,000 fires per year, $1.5 billion in property damage, and some 4,000 injuries and over 450 deaths every year. These accidents can happen in any community, and the results can be devastating. These accidents are caused when fuel vapors flash back and ignite the container contents, leading to flame to flame jetting or explosions. These accidents are easily preventable.

Flame mitigation devices can prevent accidents caused by flammable vapors igniting within liquid containers. While workplace safety regulations govern the use of approved flame mitigation devices in flammable liquid containers for industrial use, there is no requirement for consumer containers used in homes, campsites, or schools across our country.

This bipartisan solution is supported by a broad coalition, including the American Burn Association, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the International Association of Fire Fighters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Volunteer Fire Council, National Fire Protection Association, the Consumer Federation of America, the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors, the Portable Fuel Container Manufacturers Association, and the National Association of State Fire Marshals.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the National Association of State Fire Marshals' letter of support.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS,
Maitland, FL, September 16, 2019.

Hon. MIKE THOMPSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON: The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) membership comprises the most senior state fire officials in the United States, with a primary mission of protecting human life, property and the environment from fire and related public safety issues. Therefore, NASFM strongly endorses H.R. 806, Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019.

Flammable or combustible liquids cause over 160,000 fires per year, causing $1.5 billion in property damage, almost 4,000 injuries and 454 deaths annually. These accidents can happen in any community, and the results can be devastating.

Flame Mitigation Devices (FMD), such as flame arresters, can help prevent accidents caused by flammable vapors igniting within the liquid container, causing an explosion or flash fire. While workplace safety regulations govern the use of approved flame arresters in flammable liquid containers for industrial use, there is no requirement for consumer containers used in homes, camp sites, and schools across the country.

H.R. 806, Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019 would address this gap by directing the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a standard for requiring FMDs to be used in these containers and reduce the risk of catastrophic accidents.

Thank you again for your leadership, NASFM looks forward to working with you to enact into law this important fire safety prevention legislation.

Sincerely,

JIM NARVA,
Executive Director,
National Association of State Fire Marshals.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member of this body to keep our constituents and their children safe by passing this bipartisan, commonsense consumer safety bill.

I thank the cosponsor, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and, again, Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY, for helping move this bill through her subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 806, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank the sponsors of this bill and Congressman LONG for his participation. It means so much to me. I thank him for his help and his friendship.

I want to say that the story of Margrett and her daughter—her daughter has had countless surgeries as a consequence. She is one of the people who survived, but her life has been transformed forever, and we can prevent this with this legislation.

I want to give a special shout-out to the committee staff and the subcommittee staff on the Democratic side, as well as on the Republican side. I want to thank sincerely my staff in my office for all of their help on this bill. This is another one of those that will definitely be improving and saving the lives of so many Americans and ridding our country of this danger.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 806, the Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019.

I want to thank Congressman MIKE THOMPSON for introducing H.R. 806 which will help to save the lives of countless children.

H.R. 806 directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to require fuel containers to include devices that impede flames from entering the container.

This requirement applies to flammable, liquid fuel containers of fewer than five gallons that are intended for transport.

The bill also requires child resistant caps on kerosene and diesel fuel containers.

CPSC may either promulgate a rule or adopt an existing standard.

Additionally, CPSC must educate consumers about dangers associated with using or storing such containers near an open flame or a source of ignition.

On September 21, 2013, a 10-year-old boy, Christopher Allsup, died when an old red plastic gas container exploded showering him with burning gasoline.

Over 90 percent of his body was burnt.

He was flown to the University of Iowa Burn Center where he lived for only 5 hours.

In 2010, Robert Jacoby had poured gasoline from a gas can onto a brush pile he planned to ignite, he then walked the can 20 feet from the pile when it exploded.

He said he had not yet lit a match or any other fire but claimed a spark from static electricity created by the friction between the plastic can and his denim jeans was the source of ignition.

Jacoby suffered severe burns over 75 percent of his body and spent four months in a burn unit, incurring $1.5 million in medical bills.

In August in preparation for Hurricane Dorian a resident of Fort Myers, Florida had filled several gasoline canisters and stored them next to a natural gas-powered water heater.

A hot shower triggered the water heater causing it to work harder with the vapors of the gasoline ultimately starting a fire in the garage.

Luckily, water coming from the pipe sprayed everywhere, containing the fire to the garage.

Gasoline from gas cans is responsible for deaths and injuries both from ignition and the volatile vapors as well as from direct aspiration into the lung or aspiration following vomiting of ingested gasoline.

For children, the most serious types of injuries associated with exposure to gasoline are burns following ignition of the volatile vapors, chemical pneumonia, pulmonary damage, and possible death associated with direct aspiration into the lungs or aspiration during vomiting following ingestion.

The filling of portable fuel containers or "gas cans" in pickup trucks and cars can result in serious fires as a result from the buildup of static electricity from the bed liner or carpet.

Under certain limited conditions—including a very low volume of gasoline left inside—a flashback explosion can occur inside a plastic gas can, when gas vapor escaping the can contacts a source of ignition such as a flame or spark.

Since 1998 the CPSC has tallied at least 1,200 emergency room visits and 11 deaths due to gas can explosions.

That is why I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 806.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 806, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2019

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4285) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4285

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOANS.

Section 3733(a)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''September 30, 2019'' and inserting ''September 30, 2020''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''September 30, 2019,'' and inserting ''September 30, 2020,''.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Section 315(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2019'' and inserting ''September 30, 2020''.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

Section 2044(e)(1)(G) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''fiscal year 2019'' and inserting ''each of fiscal years 2019 through 2021''.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF PAYMENTS AND ALLOWANCES FOR BENEFICIARY TRAVEL IN CONNECTION WITH VETERANS RECEIVING CARE FROM VET CENTERS.

Section 104(a) of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–154; 126 Stat. 1169), as most recently amended by section 109 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–251; 132 Stat. 3169), is amended by striking ''September 30, 2019'' and inserting ''September 30, 2020''.

SEC. 6. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 714(e)(2)(B), by striking ''to the refer'' and inserting ''to refer''.

(2) In section 1725A(c), by inserting a comma after ''a contract''.

(3) In section 3313(g)(3)(B)(ii), by inserting a comma after ''for books''.

(4) In section 3321(a)(1), by striking ''January,'' and inserting ''January''.

(5) In section 3683—

(A) by striking ''(b) (b)'' and inserting ''(b)'';

(B) by striking ''(c) (c)'' and inserting ''(c)''; and

(C) by striking ''(d) (d)'' and inserting ''(d)''.

(6) In section 3699(b), by striking ''this paragraph'' and inserting ''this subsection''.

(7) In section 7462(b)(4)(A), by inserting ''notice'' after ''written''.

(8) In section 7696(c)(1), by striking '').'' and inserting a period.

(9) In section 8104(a), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraph (3):

''(3) For purposes of this subsection:

''(A) The term 'major medical facility project' means a project for the construction, alteration, or acquisition of a medical facility involving a total expenditure of more than $20,000,000, but such term does not include an acquisition by exchange, nonrecurring maintenance projects of the Department, or the construction, alteration, or acquisition of a shared Federal medical facility for which the Department's estimated share of the project costs does not exceed $20,000,000.

''(B) The term 'major medical facility lease' means a lease for space for use as a new medical facility at an average annual rent of more than $1,000,000.''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 4285.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4285, and I thank Mr. BRINDISI for sponsoring this important bill which authorizes the continued operations of programs and offices vital to addressing the needs of the veterans we serve.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the continued operation of the Manila, Philippines, regional benefits office, the only VA regional benefits office, or VARO, operating in a foreign country, and I plan to visit that facility this year.

In addition to administering disability and survivor benefits to over 16,000 veterans, their dependents, and survivors, the Manila RO administers healthcare benefits, as well.

I urge support for continued operation of this key VA regional office serving veterans and their families in the Philippines.

This bill also extends the VA Vendee Loan Program, which allows VA to sell foreclosed properties to the general public, instead of continuing to own foreclosed properties it cannot use. Our committee is working hard to ensure we can increase economic opportunities for veterans and their families so that no bank will have to foreclose on a veteran's home and place that veteran and his or her family at risk of homelessness.

That is why this bill also includes a bipartisan agreement to extend the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program for 2 years. This critical program assists homeless veterans and their families, and those most at risk of becoming homeless. In southern California, veterans experience some of the highest rates of homelessness in the country.

In the Inland Empire rents continue to rise. Geographic barriers make it challenging for veterans to access services that prevent homelessness. And the recent $9 billion cut to HUD housing assistance programs is making the homelessness crisis worse generally. That is why extending the operation of this vital program is so important.

In recent weeks, our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, led by Chairman MIKE LEVIN and Ranking Member GUS BILIRAKIS, held two bipartisan field hearings that are helping this committee to identify solutions to address veteran homelessness.

We have much work to do in understanding the definition of homelessness, getting true population counts, preventing homelessness, and working to respond to homelessness after disasters.

During the field hearing in San Diego, we heard prevention was about one-tenth of the cost of crisis intervention.

The SSVF program, which awards grants to nonprofit organizations, provides supportive services to very low-income veterans and their families to assist homeless veterans in moving into permanent housing and veterans in housing who are at risk of becoming homeless. These grants help organizations provide case management, outreach, and help veterans obtain VA healthcare and disability benefits.

These grant recipients also help with child care assistance, transportation, housing counseling services, legal services, and financial planning for veterans and their families.

I urge each of my colleagues to support this vital program so that no veteran is forced to live on the street.

Mr. Speaker, September is National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. Tragically, 20 veterans take their lives each day. Despite Congress' and VA's efforts to address veteran suicide, the rate remains unchanged. This year, we have also seen multiple veteran suicides on VA campuses. For these reasons, I have made addressing veteran suicide the top policy priority of this committee.

Earlier this month, I called on VA to conduct a 15-day nationwide stand-down in response to a VA inspector general investigation into a veteran suicide at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. The IG report exposed weaknesses in procedures, staff training, and installation of monitoring equipment in the inpatient mental health clinic.

Three-quarters of veterans who commit suicide are not receiving treatment at VA hospitals and clinics. As Congress and VA chart a strategy to reach these veterans not receiving VA care, veterans and the public must be assured that VA's own mental health clinics are adequately and appropriately staffed. Each unit must have up-to-date monitoring equipment. All VA staff must undergo appropriate training. And each mental health unit must be routinely inspected.

While I am disappointed the VA secretary has resisted my call for a nationwide stand-down, I appreciate that VA is taking actions that meet the spirit of my request. VA must make every effort to provide the highest quality treatment for the veterans and their care, especially veterans in crisis who come to VA for help.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4285 extends a program that provides transportation for veterans living in highly rural areas to vet centers for counseling and other mental health and social services.

For veterans in need of mental healthcare who may be uncomfortable entering medical facilities, vet centers

serve as a community and counseling center. For some veterans, these vet centers are a lifeline.

Yesterday, Congressman ROSE and I visited the vet center in Staten Island, New York. We both learned about the support, counseling, connection to other VA services, and the sense of community the Staten Island vet center creates with the veterans who visit there.

□ 1645

We also learned that transportation, including a $15 toll, can make it difficult for veterans in New York City to access vet centers and VA facilities. Our committee is going to look into a solution to address this.

Likewise, veterans in highly rural areas tell us distance and transportation are also obstacles to participating in counseling and mental health treatment at vet centers. Therefore, Congress has been authorizing a pilot program since 2012 that pays travel expenses for veterans attending counseling at vet centers in Bangor, Maine; Kalispell, Montana; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Spokane, Washington.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is preventable. Veterans who are thinking about suicide are not alone. If my colleagues have veterans in their district who are thinking about suicide, please urge them to call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1–800–273–8255 and press 1. They can also text 741741.

Mr. Speaker, let me repeat this very important number again. The Veterans Crisis Line is 1–800–273–8255, and veterans are asked to press 1. Veterans can also text 741741.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Mr. BRINDISI, a member of our Economic Opportunity and Health Subcommittees, for bringing this bill to the floor.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4285, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2019.

This legislation represents a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that would extend the expiring authorities impacting the lives of veterans. Swift passage of this legislation today would ensure that these programs continue. This bill would extend four authorities.

First, the bill would extend through September 30, 2020, the VA's authority to provide direct loans to buyers of VA-owned residences that the VA has pooled together.

It would also extend to September 30, 2020, the VA's authority to operate a regional office in Manila that provides services to World War II veterans who reside in the Philippines.

Third, it would extend through 2021 the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, the SSVF program, which provides grants to organizations that provide supportive services to eligible homeless or at-risk veteran families to promote housing stability.

Finally, the bill would extend through September 2020 the VA's authority to pay travel allowances to and from vet centers for veterans who live in highly rural areas.

To be clear, these are not new authorities. They are in present law, and costs associated with them have been assumed in the House-passed appropriations bill for fiscal year 2020 and the 2021 advanced appropriations.

In addition to extending these authorities, the bill would also make technical changes to legislation that Congress has previously passed.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4285 so that the Senate can take it up quickly and send it to the President's desk.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), the chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, which will, among other things, help us address the epidemic of veteran homelessness. It is simply unacceptable that many of the men and women who have served this great country are now living on our streets.

I am grateful to my friend, Ranking Member GUS BILIRAKIS from Florida. We have now had two field hearings in his district, the 12th Congressional District of Florida, and my district, the 49th Congressional District of California. We are absolutely committed to doing everything we can to address this issue in our communities and in all communities around the country.

We owe it to those who have served and their families to ensure that they have everything they need to get back on their feet, including case management; assistance in obtaining VA benefits; and temporary financial assistance with rent, utilities, or childcare expenses.

I was proud to introduce bipartisan legislation to help address homelessness, specifically among women veterans, by reauthorizing funding for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant program and requiring that at least $20 million goes to organizations that have a focus on helping women veterans and their families.

What we are seeing in our subcommittee is that the rate of veterans' homelessness is roughly steady, but alarmingly, women veterans' homelessness is increasing. We have to do something about it.

The legislation before us today will provide the reauthorization that we need before the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: Even one homeless veteran is one too many. We have a moral obligation to make robust Federal investments in programs to help get veterans off the streets.

By passing this legislation, we can make those investments, and we can do more than just pay lip service to our veterans. We can give them the support and resources they have earned and deserve.

I give credit to my friends, Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE. They are doing a fantastic job helping our veterans and trying to give back in any way we can to those who have served our country, those who have given so much. It is my great honor to serve with them on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), an original cosponsor of this legislation.

I have had the privilege of serving with Congressman BOST since he has been on the committee. He is a Marine Corps veteran, 1979 to 1982. He served in the last Congress as chairman of the DAMA, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and he is also on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

As a marine, it is one of my greatest honors to serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. It is vitally important that our government fulfill its promises to our Nation's military members that they will be taken care of once they return.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is tasked with ensuring that they receive the care they need and have earned. This bill ensures that the VA can continue to support some of our Nation's most vulnerable veterans. It extends funding for programs that help very low-income veterans and those who must travel long distances to vet centers in order to receive their care.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor and introduce this legislation with my friend, Congressman BRINDISI, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI), who serves on our Economic Opportunity and Health Subcommittees and who also is the author of H.R. 4285.

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4285, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2019, which I introduced to ensure that veterans and their families continue to have access to the programs and benefits that they rely on.

This critical bill authorizes the continuation of several important VA programs that will expire at the end of this fiscal year if Congress does not act.

First, this bill provides a 1-year extension of VA's authority relating to vendee loans. Vendee loans are loans offered by the VA to purchase VA real estate-owned properties. Offered to veterans and nonveterans alike, this loan

program allows people to purchase properties that were previously foreclosed upon and are now government-owned, with little to no downpayment.

This bill also provides a 2-year extension of financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing. Grantees under this program are required to provide supportive services to eligible veterans and their families, including outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA benefits.

This program was previously authorized for fiscal year 2019, but this extension would extend authorization to include fiscal years 2020 and 2021. This extension of the program helps give the VA and the grantees better certainty of the program's future so they can continue providing critical wraparound services that help low-income veterans get back on their feet.

The bill also provides a 1-year extension of VA's payments and allowances for beneficiary travel in connection with veterans receiving care from vet centers. While veterans can claim beneficiary travel from VA medical facilities, we know that care at the vet centers can be just as important.

This program is important because it specifically helps populations of rural veterans. Highly rural veterans have frequently described transportation as being a limiting factor in receiving care, and I am proud that this bill would extend this critical program.

I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE for their work on extending these critical programs and their true commitment to our Nation's veterans. I also thank my colleague Congressman BOST from Illinois, my friend on the VA Committee, for leading this legislation with me.

It is an honor to serve on the VA Committee, the most bipartisan committee in Congress, and work with my colleagues to support our Nation's veterans.

I encourage my colleagues to support this critical legislation and support our Nation's veterans.

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

Mr. Speaker, just to reemphasize what was said about homeless veterans, I have been on the committee for almost 11 years, my entire time in Congress. When I first arrived here, we had over 100,000 homeless veterans on the streets of this country, which was unbelievable.

Then-Secretary General Shinseki made one of his priorities to try to reduce homelessness to zero by 2016. He did not succeed in that, but we have reduced the homeless veterans population now down to under 40,000, which is a 60 percent reduction, a huge reduction.

I could not agree more with my colleague from California. One veteran homeless is too many.

I know there are pockets in this country. I know that, in California, they have a really serious problem there, and I think they are working very hard on trying to solve this. This legislation will be one piece of the puzzle.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member PHIL ROE for mentioning the tremendous strides the VA and this Nation have made toward reducing veteran homelessness.

It is true that Secretary Shinseki's goal of ending veteran homelessness did not occur by the designated year, 2016. But even in the State of California, where we are still experiencing several pockets of veteran homelessness, in Riverside County, the county I represent in Congress, this county has achieved functional zero. This does not mean that there are zero homeless veterans, but what it does mean is that when homeless veterans are identified, their homelessness is brief and nonrecurring. That is the definition of functional zero.

I want to commend, again, the officials at the Riverside County VA and the Loma Linda VA for the incredible work they have done to achieve functional zero. I hope that they will be able to share their insights with other counties in my State and across the Nation that are looking to do the same.

What I do know is that functional zero will not remain functional zero without concerted and intentional effort to be vigilant. We need to be vigilant in areas where we have reduced homelessness to functional zero, and we also need to ensure that we continue to address the challenges in Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego County where homelessness among our veterans persists.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud and pleased to support this package of extensions of programs—among them, programs that will address veteran homelessness.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing this very important legislation, H.R. 4285, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committees on the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Budget, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4285, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2019, which among other things, reauthorizes the VA Vendee Loan Program.

The VA Vendee Loan program allows veterans, non-veterans, owner-occupants, and investors the opportunity to purchase VA real estate owned properties.

Veterans have the opportunity to purchase these properties with little to no money down, competitive interest rates, 15 or 30 year loan term options, and no appraisal requirement or pre-payment penalties.

H.R. 4285 would provide a one-year extension to this critical program that gives veterans a viable alternative to traditional financing.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is making a positive impact on the lives of thousands of veterans and beneficiaries.

For example, in the Philippines, the Manila Regional office is the only Veterans Affairs office outside the United States or its territories.

This legislation will create a one-year extension of VA's authority to operate a Regional Office in the Philippines, providing benefits claims, local payment of benefit checks, and other social services to thousands of U.S. veterans living oversees in the Philippines.

In addition, H.R. 4285 will provide a two year extension of authority to fund financial assistance for supportive services to very low income veteran families in permanent housing, and a one-year extension of VA's authority to temporarily expand payments and allowances for beneficiary travel in connection with veterans receiving care from vet centers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4285, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2019, to continue providing the Department of Veterans Affairs the resources to continue providing services to our nation's veterans.

□ 1700

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4285.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2134) to reauthorize the Helen Keller National Center for Youths and Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2134

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Helen Keller National Center Reauthorization Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER REAUTHORIZED.

The first sentence of section 205(a) of the Helen Keller National Center Act (29 U.S.C. 1904(a)) is amended by striking ''1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''2019 through 2023''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2134.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am excited that the House of Representatives is considering this bill, the Helen Keller National Center Reauthorization Act, a bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it. This bill will reauthorize funding for the center through 2023.

Congress established the Helen Keller National Center in 1967 to provide nationwide services for people who are deaf-blind. Headquartered in New York with regional offices across the country, the center is the only organization of its kind that provides training and resources exclusively to people 16 and over who have both vision and hearing loss.

Unfortunately, deaf-blind people face unique and diverse challenges. Many youth who are deaf-blind have not been provided with the type or quality of education that generally yields successful outcomes in employment, independent living, and community involvement. In fact, deaf-blind youth have some of the lowest levels of access to special education services.

I am so proud of some of the work that we are doing in my home State of Washington to advance justice for deaf-blind people. Washington State Deaf-Blind Citizens is doing incredible work to organize community events, to provide support for everyday tasks like reading the mail and doing errands, and to advocate with lawmakers on the unique needs of the deaf-blind community.

We also have the Deaf-Blind Service Center of Seattle, which focuses on breaking down communication barriers by providing interpretation and advocacy services for free to deaf-blind individuals.

I think we can all agree that every deaf-blind person deserves equal access to services that promote their successes, independence, and full participation in their communities. That is exactly what the Helen Keller National Center provides to this underserved population. Thanks to the center, deaf-blind people in every congressional district can connect with support systems to grow productively and find meaning in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to enthusiastically support this bill to extend congressional authorization for the Helen Keller National Center. I urge my colleagues to support it as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2134, the legislation to reauthorize the Helen Keller National Center Act. Originally enacted in 1967, the law established the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults.

Today's legislation allows the important center—the only organization of its kind—to continue to support individuals with combined vision and hearing loss, as well as their families and service providers.

Helen Keller's story is well-known to us all. It is an example of determination and hard work. Not only did she overcome her difficulties, she also worked tirelessly to benefit the lives of others. In doing so, she showed the world there are no boundaries.

I would like to read a couple of quotes of Helen Keller: ''Remember, no effort that we make to attain something beautiful is ever lost.''

''Sometime, somewhere, somehow we shall find that which we seek.''

In an article from 1933, entitled, ''The Simplest Way to Be Happy,'' she wrote: ''A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardships.''

These quotes embody her perseverance. The Helen Keller National Center carries on this message by working to give the deaf-blind community the tools they need to work and thrive in communities of their choice.

The center offers hope and dignity to those it serves through on-campus assistive technology education; vocational, orientation and mobility, and communication services; and independent living support through its headquarters in Sands Point, New York. Individuals from across the country travel to their headquarters for these incredible resources.

The National Center also provides similar services to local communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. The goal of these programs and services is to advance the personal development and independence of individuals who are deaf-blind.

Federal support allows the center to continue its invaluable research and development programs in several areas, including communication techniques and teaching methods. All of this leads to improved program offerings and, ultimately, better lives for deaf-blind Americans and their families.

H.R. 2134 will reauthorize the Helen Keller Center through the year 2023, which demonstrates this body's continued commitment to providing deaf-blind youths and adults with opportunities to lead successful, independent lives. By passing this legislation, Congress recognizes the unique needs of individuals who are deaf-blind as well as the unique care and developmental programs they need.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill. Doing so allows us to carry on Hellen Keller's incredible story of independence and success that has given hope to generations of those who are deaf-blind.

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), who is the sponsor of this bill, H.R. 2134, a member of the Appropriations Committee, and my co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. He is a real champion for communities across the country.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Ms. JAYAPAL, for yielding me some time. I want to thank my friend from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for his supportive words. I appreciate that.

I am happy that we here today to pass H.R. 2134, the Helen Keller National Center Reauthorization Act of 2019, which I am glad to author and introduce with my colleagues, Representatives TOM SUOZZI and TOM COLE. Without their support, as well as the support of Representatives ROSA DELAURO, PETE KING, and Chairman BOBBY SCOTT, this legislation would not be on the floor today.

The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults was first authorized by Congress in 1967 to assist the deaf-blind community in America. To this day, it is the only comprehensive national program that provides information, referrals, support, and training exclusively to Americans who have combined vision and hearing loss, while also supporting families and professionals who work with the deaf-blind community.

Unfortunately, the center's authorization has lapsed, but through our actions today, we will be able to reauthorize it through 2023 and continue to advocate on its behalf during the annual appropriations process.

In my home State of Wisconsin, the Helen Keller National Center has partnered with the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation through a formal agreement to provide job preparation and job placement services, independent living, and communication skills, training, and self-advocacy training.

Additionally, it co-led the Midwest Deaf-Blind Transition Institute this past July, where deaf-blind youths from across Wisconsin and their family members explored post-high school options and met with peer mentors.

The center has also recently provided training to 55 professionals in Wisconsin on haptics, a system of providing tactual signs to deaf-blind persons to relay information, which can increase independence and engagement in daily life.

Clearly, the work the Helen Keller National Center performs is vital and life-changing. That is why I am proud to stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives in support of the center and its work. The Helen Keller National Center is worthy of all of our support.

I thank Sue Ruzenski at the Helen Keller National Center for bringing its work and the needs of the deaf-blind community to my attention.

I thank Jacque Mosely of the House Education and Labor Committee, who has been invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to stand in support of the American deaf-blind community and vote in favor of this bipartisan legislation before us.

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

H.R. 2134 is legislation to reauthorize the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults. The center offers groundbreaking educational programs across the country that help deaf-blind individuals triumph over adversity, just as Helen Keller did more than 50 years ago. By passing today's legislation, we ensure this center can continue its critical work providing our Nation's deaf-blind with the resources needed to lead successful and independent lives.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, Congressman POCAN, whom I thank for authoring this bill. I once again urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 2134, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), who is my good friend.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JAYAPAL for yielding me time.

Today I rise in support of H.R. 2134, the Helen Keller National Center Reauthorization Act of 2019.

The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults is located in my district in Sands Point, Long Island. It is a national organization and, really, the only one of its type.

I want to thank my colleagues, Representative POCAN, who is the author of this bill, and Congressman PETER KING, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, Congresswoman DELAURO, Congressman COLE, and Congresswoman LOWEY, for championing the authorization of the Helen Keller National Center.

Think about it: This was formed in 1967, and it is a unique facility in that it serves a population that is both deaf and blind, combined. Imagine how important this organization is in the lives of these folks who are confronting being deaf and blind at the same time.

It is estimated that there are 2.4 million deaf and blind youths and adults in America, and that number is going up dramatically as the population ages.

Mr. Speaker, this organization services adults who are over 16 years of age. They travel from all over the country to come to this facility, as well as having regional centers, which have been mentioned already, that provide what you would characterize as outpatient services.

In my second week in office, in 2017, I visited the Helen Keller National Center in my district. I met with deaf and blind individuals in the program. I learned about their experiences and how Helen Keller services made a difference in their lives and the lives of their families. Many described how they had gained skills in order to live independently and to be successfully employed in a career of their choice.

We must all recognize the critical importance of this group, and the reauthorization of the Helen Keller Act is one significant way that Congress can collectively convey to the deaf-blind community that we are all committed to ensuring quality services are available to promote their empowerment and their success, not only the work they have done in the past, but that they will do in the future as well.

I want people to know that, since coming to Congress in 2017, after years of no increases in their funding, my colleagues and I have helped increase funding at the Helen Keller National Center from $10.3 million a year to $13.5 million for the Helen Keller National Center. It is really a modest investment, but with this funding, they have been able to provide a wider array of critical services to deaf-blind individuals by building a network all across the Nation among professionals and service providers with 11 regional offices located across the country. This year's appropriations bill package passed by the House included $16 million and is awaiting action in the Senate.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues who have done so much for such an important organization.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this is commonsense, bipartisan legislation to help deaf-blind students across the country. I am so proud that the House is considering this legislation today. I urge a ''yes'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2134 the "Helen Keller National Center Reauthorization Act of 2019."

Helen Keller was an American author, political activist, and lecturer who was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelors Degree in the United States.

She was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama on June 27, 1880 and she spent her life campaigning for women's suffrage, labor rights and antimilitarism.

The Helen Keller National Center Act established a Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults to provide specialized intensive services for deaf-blind persons, to train personnel to provide such services, and to conduct applied research, development, and demonstrations relating to communication techniques, teaching methods, aids, devices and delivery of services.

This bill requires an annual audit of the Center and it directs the Secretary of Education to ensure that Center service and training programs are monitored regularly, and Center operation is evaluated annually, with written reports to the President and Congress submitted by specified deadlines.

There are approximately thirty-six million adult Americans that suffer some type of hearing loss and approximately ten million Americans that are blind or visually impaired.

This legislation will help ensure that these Americans get the help they need to fulfill their dreams.

That is why I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 2134.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2134, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

FOSTERING UNDERGRADUATE TALENT BY UNLOCKING RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION ACT

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2486) to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2486

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act'' or the ''FUTURE Act''.

SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 371(b)(1)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(b)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''through 2019'' and inserting ''through 2021''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking ''2019'' and inserting ''2021''.

SEC. 3. ELIMINATION OF ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 458 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087h) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (1), (4), and (5); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), respectively;

(2) by striking subsection (b); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 422B(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1072b(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

SEC. 4. TRANSFER OF FEDERAL PELL GRANT FUNDS.

Section 401(b)(7)(A)(iv) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(A)(iv)) is amended by striking

subclauses (X) and (XI) and inserting the following:

''(X) $1,267,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

''(XI) $1,145,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

''(XII) $1,145,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

''(XIII) $1,145,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

''(XIV) $1,145,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

''(XV) $1,394,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

''(XVI) $1,145,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 and each succeeding fiscal year.''.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2486.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2486, Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education, or better known as the FUTURE Act.

This bill is an absolutely crucial piece of legislation. It represents the number one priority of our minority-serving institutions, which educate nearly 30 percent of all undergraduate students in America.

The FUTURE Act would reauthorize title 3, part F of the Higher Education Act, providing $255 million in funding for MSIs for the next 2 years.

This includes:

$85 million of historically Black colleges and universities;

$30 million for Tribal colleges and universities;

$100 million for Hispanic-serving institutions; and

$15 million each for predominantly Black institutions, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions.

First authorized in 2010, title 3, part F have helped MSIs prepare their students for STEM professions, fortified failing infrastructure on MSIs campuses, and provided fiscal stability for many of our smaller MSIs.

In order for MSIs to continue this work for fiscal year 2020 and beyond, the House must act tonight and ensure that our low-income, first generation college students are not left behind. This bill is about their future.

H.R. 2486 is not only integral to MSIs and the millions of students that they serve, it is also responsible legislation that is completely paid for, not adding one cent to the deficit. H.R. 2486 does this by repealing automatic maintenance fees, a relic of the now-defunct Federal Family Education Loan Program, where the government-paid private institutions called guaranty agencies to manage student loan accounts. And with the Federal Government now directly lending to student borrowers, these fees are no longer paid, and are increasingly being phased out.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for support for H.R. 2486, and I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Council on Education and 43 other national organizations in support of passage of this bill tonight by the House.

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2019.

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

Representative KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and the higher education community at large, we write to ask that you and the members you lead vote in favor of H.R. 2486, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act when it comes up for a vote tomorrow.

This bicameral, bipartisan bill was introduced by Representative Alma Adams (D–NC) and Representative Mark Walker (R–NC) to extend vital mandatory funding for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, student completion and infrastructure programs benefiting HBCUs, TCUs, HSIs, and other MSIs in Title III, Part F of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) before it expires on September 30, 2019.

Mandatory funding for STEM education and other programs at these important institutions was first instituted when the College Cost and Reduction Act of 2007 was signed into law. This bill passed both the House and Senate on a bipartisan basis and allowed for mandatory funding to flow to HBCUs, TCUs, HSIs and other MSIs from 2008 to 2009. Shortly thereafter, the Higher Education Opportunity Act, which maintained this important stream of funding, passed both the House and Senate on a bipartisan basis and was signed into law in 2008.

It was not until 2010 that these mandatory funds were extended for an additional ten years because Congress recognized the value in securing funding for institutions that served large numbers of low-income, first-generation college students of color.

According to a recent report, there are more than ''20 million young people of color in the United States whose representations in STEM education pathways and in the STEM workforce [fall] . . . far below their proportions of the general population.'' It was emphasized in this report that ''the educational outcomes and STEM readiness of students of color will have direct implications on America's economic growth, national security, and global prosperity.''

Furthermore, a report released by the White House's National Science and Technology Council stated that the ''national benefits of a strong STEM foundation cannot be fully realized until all members of society have equitable access to STEM education and [until] there is much broader participation by those historically underserved and underrepresented in STEM fields . . .'' The report goes on to highlight the importance of diversity in the workplace leading to more engaged, innovative, and higher-performing organizations.

It is clear that diversifying our STEM workforce should be a priority for our country and would pay immediate dividends to our economy. The FUTURE Act helps avoid a $2.55 billion-dollar cliff in funding over 10 years for HBCUs, TCUs, HSIs, and other MSIs by extending mandatory funding until Fiscal Year 2021. This bill is revenue neutral and allows these important institutions to continue the valuable work of offering quality STEM programs.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and look forward to working with you to enact this legislation before the September 30 deadline.

Sincerely,

TED MITCHELL,
President.

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream, Inc.; ACPA-College Student Educators International; ACT, Inc.; American Association of Colleges of Nursing; American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers; American Association of Community Colleges; American Association of State Colleges and Universities; American Association of University Professors; American Council on Education; American Dental Education Association; American Indian Higher Education Consortium; APPA, Leadership in Educational Facilities; Association of American Colleges and Universities; Association of American Universities; Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

Association of Community College Trustees; Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges; Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities; Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities; College and University Professional Association for Human Resources; Common App; Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area; Council for Advancement and Support of Education; Council for Christian Colleges & Universities; Council for Higher Education Accreditation; Council for Opportunity in Education; Council of Graduate Schools; Council of Independent Colleges; Council on Social Work Education.

EDUCAUSE; ETS; Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; NAFSA: Association of International Educators; NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education; National Association for College Admission Counseling; National Association of College and University Business Officers; National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; National Association of System Heads; National Council for Community and Education Partnerships; Thurgood Marshall College Fund; UNCF; UPCEA.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 2486, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act, also known as the FUTURE Act.

First, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms.

ADAMS), my colleague, and Senators TIM SCOTT and DOUG JONES for working with me on this critical piece of legislation.

The FUTURE Act supports STEM programs for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority-serving institutions, ensuring the students in our communities receive the best science, tech, engineering, and math education in the country by providing and extending these grants.

Representing the largest HBCU in the country, North Carolina A&T State University, I have seen firsthand the significant impact these STEM grants have on our HBCU students. On a personal note, as Representative ADAMS knows, and I have mentioned before, my wife is a family nurse practitioner at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and a two-time graduate from an HBCU.

Thanks to the FUTURE Act, 300,000 students across more than 100 HBCUs will have the opportunities that come with a STEM education. From the engineers that will build our roads and bridges, to the mathematicians who will solve complex questions of physics, to the computer scientists coding for smart electric grids, our future lies in the hands of STEM graduates.

In the rapidly changing environment of higher education, our schools and students—especially those at minority-serving institutions—need the stability and assuredness that comes with knowing that they have our full support. The House needs to pass the FUTURE Act for HBCUs and the students they serve.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), my colleague, and Senators DOUG JONES and TIM SCOTT for working together to get this important piece of legislation across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan, bicameral bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor, of which I am privileged to serve under.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for their continued leadership of this bill, specifically, and with the HBCU Caucus, generally.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to preserve funding for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions. These institutions play a critical role in expanding access to higher education for low-income students and students of color.

Collectively, they educate more than one-quarter of all graduates, nearly 6 million students, including many in our Nation's underserved the communities. Typically, these under-resourced schools educate first-time college attendees, many of whom hail from impoverished communities.

The funding that supports minority-serving institutions is the only program authorized in the Higher Education Act that expires if not reauthorized this year. Accordingly, if Congress fails to pass this bill by September 30, these historic institutions will suffer a $255 million shortfall, causing lost jobs, lost opportunities, and diminished financial support for students across the country.

Members of this body often speak glowingly about the role of HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions. And today, we have an opportunity to back those words with action. The FUTURE Act, which is fully paid for, preserves vital investments in minority-serving institutions, as well as the students and communities they serve.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), former chair and ranking member, and a lady who has given her life to the education arena.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank both of my colleagues from North Carolina for their leadership on doing their best to help HBCUs.

However, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2486, the FUTURE Act. Under the guise of a manufactured deadline, House Democrats are rushing through a bill that will negatively impact student borrowers across the country.

I want to make one thing clear: In no way does my criticism of the underlying bill diminish my support for America's HBCUs and MSIs and the important role these institutions of higher learning play in our country.

My issue is with this bill and the process by which it is before us. We have a responsibility to diligently and responsibly allocate taxpayer dollars. Too many in this body find it way too easy to spend hard-earned taxpayer dollars without promising accountability. That is an insult to every citizen who has entrusted us with their representation. Yet, the Democrats' bill before us uses budget gimmicks to skirt House protocols.

This flawed bill also eliminates account maintenance fees, programs that serve low-income minority students through financial aid awareness and borrower assistance services. In addition to funding and policy issues, the bill has serious process issues. Our colleagues have skipped the markup process and brought it straight to the floor.

This unnecessary move to push forward a bill without the deliberation of the committee is a disservice to America's students. We have the time to deliberate this legislation with all parties at the table, but my colleagues aren't interested in sound policy, they are interested in sound bites.

Simply put, there are better ways to accomplish the policy goals of this bill and really work toward improving the future of American students.

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

AMFs are a maintenance fee given to guaranty agencies for a program that no longer originates new loans. And while some guaranty agencies may be using AMFs for financial literacy, it is important to know that these are auxiliary activities not required by HEA, and guaranty agencies do not report any information on these activities.

There is no data across agencies that show how much of the AMF, if any, is actually being used for this type of outreach or what the actual impact will be on students in your district.

If this were true when Republicans had control of the House, they would have moved a bill to permanently authorize funds to these institutions. Instead, the Republicans allowed for the expiration to happen in hopes that it would be eliminated through no action.

The MSI mandatory funding is a unique program, and it expires in less than 15 days. And this justifies immediate action. I also mentioned that these schools will lose a tremendous amount of money that they need, and I just want to remind the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that we are talking about $1.1 million in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 to Winston-Salem State University; that is in the Fifth District.

As we look at all of the schools that will benefit from this funding, I think we have some responsibility to help these young people—who, we said to them, You need an education—and help them move through this process that will make it easier for them to not only stay in school, but for these colleges and universities to stay open.

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), a champion for HBCU causes since arriving in Congress 2½ years ago.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER), my friend, for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership on this very important piece of legislation. And I also thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), my colleague, for her leadership on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the FUTURE Act. This bipartisan bill would extend mandatory funding under title 3 of the Higher Education Act to HBCUs around the country.

HBCUs play a vital role in expanding opportunity to students in North Carolina, especially in my district, where I am fortunate to represent three of them: Bennett College, North Carolina A&T, and Livingstone College.

Now, a recent report I came across found that HBCUs generate $1.7 billion in Federal economic impact in North Carolina. This figure includes direct spending on faculty, academic programs, and by the students directly attending these institutions.

HBCUs are an engine of economic growth in our communities because they expand the economic playing field to students from every background. Our economy works best when everyone has a shot at success.

As current funding to HBCUs is set to expire on September 30, it is critical that this legislation makes it across the finish line and onto the President's desk.

□ 1730

The FUTURE Act would provide funding to more than 100 HBCUs across 19 different States. It will allow universities and their students to continue down the pathway to success. In my view, having healthy HBCUs is critical for our State's economic future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends again for their leadership on this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, but before I close, I do want to, first of all, thank both gentlemen from North Carolina, Representative WALKER and Representative BUDD, for their support of HBCUs.

Congressman WALKER is correct. He represents the largest public HBCU in the Nation, of which I had the privilege of studying at and graduating from twice, North Carolina A&T, and served that school for more than 40 years in the district.

I am watching Congressman WALKER, and I appreciate him and Representative BUDD and all the support they are giving to our HBCUs.

I taught 40 years at Bennett College in Greensboro, so HBCUs are really running through my veins.

Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD letters of support submitted by 36 individual schools—IHEs, HBCUs—for the passage of this bill, and I have some other documents that I also will include in the RECORD from NAFEO, UNCF, and TMCF, and also from Harry Williams from TMCF.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say before I close, Mr. BUDD mentioned a couple of those statistics about our schools.

Our schools, HBCUs, confer 40 percent of all STEM degrees, 60 percent of all engineering degrees. We educate 50 percent of African American teachers and 40 percent of African American health professionals. We produce 70 percent of African American dentists and physicians. I could go on and on.

Yes, there is a serious economic impact of about $15 billion—$14.8 billion, to be specific. We are not slouching. HBCUs are doing a lot with a little. We still don't receive equitable funding, but this, certainly, will help not only the colleges and universities, the MSIs, but it is also going to help our students—first-generation students, as I was—who have the privilege of going on and getting a good education from one of our Nation's best HBCUs.

Let me say before I close, I, again, thank both gentlemen, and I ask the House to approve H.R. 2486.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rebut a couple of things.

First, as has been explained, account maintenance fees are a dwindling source of funds. They have been made obsolete now, and they are being replaced by the Direct Loan Program. The funds now represent 3.5 percent of the average guaranty agency's total revenue, which last year totaled about $4 billion. When the opposition talks about AMFs and how important they are, we have to note that they are referring to just 3.5 percent of $4 billion.

I would also like to say that because funds from AMFs can be used for whatever purpose they desire, on the contrary, title III, part F only can be used for specific purposes that improve institutional stability and academic programs.

We don't want to be on record saying that $140 million that may be used to help low-income students is more important than $255 million that must help low-income students, which comprises about 60 percent of the population at our HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.

The other side says that the mandatory funds should not go to institutions, but account maintenance fees are exactly that. They are funds that must be paid by the government to private institutions.

Our HBCUs account for 3 percent of all colleges and universities. We graduate 10 percent of all Black college graduates, a third of Black STEM professionals.

Our TCUs serve geographically remote areas that help close gaps in healthcare services and formal education attainment in Tribal communities. Since 1965, the Federal Government has tried to atone for this neglect by providing institutional aid to these students.

To turn our backs on these schools by letting these important mandatory funds expire, which it has already been noted will expire in about 2 weeks, is unconscionable. It is a slap in the face to many who look to these schools as their ticket to the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, I have already submitted those documents for the RECORD, but I do want to urge all of my colleagues to pass this FUTURE Act. It is about the future of our schools, the future of our students, those who need that opportunity, the opportunity that W.E.B. Du Bois spoke about when he said, ''Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 500 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental.''

I thank my colleagues for continuing to believe in that fundamental right for these young people to have that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Chamber again to support and champion our low-income, our first-generation college students by approving H.R. 2486, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I know Congresswoman ADAMS is yielding back only because I am the Member who represents North Carolina A&T at this point.

Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and with great big Aggie pride, I yield back the balance of my time as well.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2486, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act, which ensures federal funding for Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) across our nation, including Northern Marianas College, continues after September 30, 2019.

Enrolling two out of every three students of color, MSIs play an important role in providing access to a quality higher education and career opportunities. However, many of these schools, which serve over 25 percent of all undergraduates, have historically been underfunded which affects their ability to serve their students who primarily come from disadvantaged backgrounds. This is why Congress authorized funding for MSIs under the Higher Education Act to help students of color succeed through better access to degree programs that prepare them for in-demand jobs, academic counseling and other support services. Through this funding, Northern Marianas College established Project PROA which offers high school juniors, seniors and first-year college students free academic tutoring, college mentoring, counseling, and a center with access to computers while incorporating the indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch cultures. 86 percent of participants passed more than half of their classes after receiving Project PROA tutoring services.

Mandatory funding for these institutions will expire on September 30, 2019. The FUTURE Act, which I cosponsored, ensures this will not happen. Under H.R. 2486, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions like Northern Marianas College will continue to receive $255 million for the next two years. Should funding lapse, the impact would fall on students the most if schools have to make cuts to the very academic programs and services that were established to help them succeed.

I thank the gentlelady from North Carolina, Ms. ADAMS, for her leadership on this legislation and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2486.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2486, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON S. 1790, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to

take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House; to strike out all after the enacting clause of such bill and insert in lieu thereof the provisions of H.R. 2500 as passed by the House; to pass the Senate bill, as amended; and to insist on the House amendment thereto and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to instruct conferees at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Thornberry moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the bill S. 1790 be instructed to agree to section 2906 of the Senate bill with the following amendments:

In subsection (a), strike ''military construction projects authorized by such Acts'' and insert ''the military construction projects described in subsection (d)''.

Add at the end the following new subsection:

(d) MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—The military construction projects described in this subsection are the projects set forth in the following table:

Deferred military construction projects

State/Location	Installation	Project	Amount
Alabama	Anniston Army Depot	Weapon Maintenance Shop	$5,200,000
Alaska	Eielson AFB	Repair Central Heat/Power Plant Boiler PH 4	$41,000,000
	Eielson AFB	Repair Central Heat & Power Plant Boiler Ph3	$34,400,000
	Eielson AFB	Eielson AFB Improved CATM Range	$19,000,000
	Fort Greely	Missile Field #1 Expansion	$8,000,000
Arizona	Fort Huachuca	Ground Transport Equipment Building	$30,000,000
California	Channel Islands ANGS	Construct C-130J Flight Simulator Facility	$8,000,000
Colorado	Peterson AFB	Space Control Facility	$8,000,000
Florida	Tyndall AFB	Fire/Crash Rescue Station	$17,000,000
Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	Consolidated Training Facility	$5,500,000
	Kaneohe Bay	Security Improvements Mokapu Gate	$26,492,000
Indiana	Crane Army Ammunition Plant	Railcar Holding Area	$16,000,000
	Hulman Regional Airport	Construct Small Arms Range	$8,000,000
Kentucky	Fort Campbell, Kentucky	Ft Campbell Middle School	$62,634,000
Louisiana	Joint Reserve Base New Orleans	NORTHCOM - Construct Alert Apron	$15,000,000
	Joint Reserve Base New Orleans	NORTHCOM - Construct Alert Facilities	$24,000,000
Maryland	Fort Meade	Cantonment Area Roads	$16,500,000
	Joint Base Andrews	PAR Relocate Haz Cargo Pad and EOD Range	$37,000,000
	Joint Base Andrews	Child Development Center	$13,000,000
Mississippi	Jackson IAP	Construct Small Arms Range	$8,000,000
New Mexico	Holloman AFB	MQ-9 FTU Ops Facility	$85,000,000
	White Sands	Information Systems Facility	$40,000,000
New York	U.S. Military Academy	Engineering Center	$95,000,000
	U.S. Military Academy	Parking Structure	$65,000,000
North Carolina	Camp Lejeune, North Carolina	2nd Radio BN Complex, Phase 2	$25,650,000
	Camp Lejeune, North Carolina	Ambulatory Care Center Add-Alt	$15,300,000
	Fort Bragg	Butner Elementary School Replacement	$32,944,000
	Seymour Johnson AFB	KC-46A ADAL for Alt Mission Storage	$6,400,000
Oklahoma	Tulsa IAP	Construct Small Arms Range	$8,000,000
Oregon	Klamath Falls IAP	Construct Indoor Range	$8,000,000
	Klamath Falls IAP	Replace Fuel Facilities	$2,500,000
South Carolina	Beaufort	Laurel Bay Fire Station Replacement	$10,750,000
Texas	Fort Bliss	Defense Access Roads	$20,000,000
	Joint Base San Antonio	Camp Bullis Dining Facility	$18,500,000
Utah	Hill AFB	Composite Aircraft Antenna Calibration Fac	$26,000,000
	Hill AFB	UTTR Consolidated Mission Control Center	$28,000,000
Virginia	Joint Base Langley-Eustis	Construct Cyber Ops Facility	$10,000,000
	Norfolk	Replace Hazardous Materials Warehouse	$18,500,000
	Pentagon	Pentagon Metro Entrance Facility	$12,111,000
	Portsmouth	Replace Hazardous Materials Warehouse	$22,500,000
	Portsmouth	Ships Maintenance Facility	$26,120,000
Washington	Bangor	Pier and Maintenance Facility	$88,960,000
Wisconsin	Truax Field	Construct Small Arms Range	$8,000,000
Guam	Joint Region Marianas	Earth Covered Magazines	$52,270,000
	Joint Region Marianas	PRTC Roads	$2,500,000
	Joint Region Marianas	Water Well Field	$56,088,000
	Joint Region Marianas	Navy-Commercial Tie-In Hardening	$37,180,000
	Joint Region Marianas	Machine Gun Range	$50,000,000
	Joint Region Marianas	APR - Munitions Storage Igloos, Ph 2	$35,300,000
	Joint Region Marianas	Hayman Munitions Storage Igloos MSA 2	$9,800,000
	Joint Region Marianas	APR - SATCOM C4I Facility	$14,200,000
Puerto Rico	Arroyo	Readiness Center	$30,000,000
	Camp Santiago	Company Headquarters Bldg/-Transient Training	$47,000,000

Deferred military construction projects—Continued

State/Location	Installation	Project	Amount
	Camp Santiago	Dining Facility, Transient Training	$13,000,000
	Camp Santiago	Engineering-Housing Maintenance Shops (DPW)	$11,000,000
	Camp Santiago	Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site	$80,000,000
	Camp Santiago	National Guard Readiness Center	$50,000,000
	Camp Santiago	Power Substation-Switching Station Building	$18,500,000
	Gurabo	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	$28,000,000
	Punta Borinquen	Ramey Unit School Replacement	$61,071,000
	San Juan	Aircraft Maintenance Hangar (AASF)	$64,000,000
Virgin Islands	St. Croix	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	$20,000,000
	St. Croix	Power Substation-Switching Station Building	$3,500,000
	St. Thomas	National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop Add-Alt	$3,875,000
Overseas	Various Locations	Various Projects	$1,836,755,000

Mr. THORNBERRY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the motion be considered as read.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

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

Mr. Speaker, this motion to instruct conferees instructs the House conferees to agree to the Senate position to replace money transferred from out of the military construction projects under title X, section 2808.

Just to clarify, when the Senate passed its bill, we didn't know which specific projects we were talking about. The Senate has, in its bill, a provision to replace the full $3.6 billion that was then expected to be transferred out of military construction and used for border security.

Well, now we know what specific projects those are, so the only difference in the motion and this underlying Senate provision is to list the specific projects.

It is important to remember, Mr. Speaker, that the Senate passed its bill replacing the full $3.6 billion by a vote of 86–8. Three Republicans and five Democrats voted ''no'' on the whole measure, but, overwhelmingly, they supported the bill that includes a provision to replace this money.

Each of the projects that is listed in the motion to instruct has been specifically authorized and appropriated by the House and the Senate and signed into law by the President.

Now, it is true that the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Esper, has tried to minimize the effects on our military when this transfer was made. But it is still true, even with his efforts, that there was $544 million taken away from dependent schools, $13 million taken away from child dependent centers, $15.3 million from medical clinics, more money from fire stations, dining facilities, et cetera.

Despite his best efforts, our troops are affected by the transfer of this money.

Mr. Speaker, we are really good at fighting, arguing, and pointing fingers of blame about how this came to be, and I am sure we all have different opinions about that. But voting ''yes'' or ''no'' on this motion to instruct will not change that at all, will not change the transfer, will not change any of those underlying facts.

The only thing that we have an ability to influence with this motion to instruct is whether or not the troops have to suffer as a result of Washington dysfunction. It will make a difference to them.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the right thing to do for national security and, certainly, the right thing to do for our troops is for the House to instruct our conferees to agree with the Senate provision, the only difference being we would list the specific projects rather than the total amount. That way, we can ensure that, as we continue to argue about border security and a whole variety of other issues, our troops do not suffer as a result of that argument.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to make sure everyone understands: This provision is actually completely irrelevant. It will impact nothing, from a substantive standpoint.

There is no way our troops are going to be harmed whether we pass this instruction or whether we follow this instruction or not. That is important to understand.

We authorize military construction projects, when we authorize them, for 5 years. Every single project that the President has listed as the ones that he has stolen the money from to build the border wall that Congress expressly said they did not want to spend this money on is already authorized.

Whether or not we put an additional authorization into the fiscal year 2020 defense bill is, literally, irrelevant.

□ 1745

It has no impact whatsoever on whether or not the troops, their families, whatever the construction projects are, get funded or not. That will be a DOD decision. They have the authority to do it. How do they wish to spend their money?

So please don't let anyone say on this motion to instruct that if you don't vote for it, you are voting to not fund these projects. You are not. All of them are authorized for 5 years. There are a couple of projects that were first authorized in 2016, but we are in that 5-year window for every single project in question, so this has nothing to do with that.

What this amounts to is a sense of Congress on whether or not we ought to allow a President to effectively steal $3.6 billion out of the Pentagon's budget for his own personal policy desire that Congress has already said they shouldn't.

And in a bipartisan way, I am quite certain, but for the politics surrounding this issue, that Congress would emphatically say ''no.'' If we pass a defense budget that says this is where you ought to spend the money, we are not saying, Mr. President, here's a piggy bank. Have fun with it. Okay? If you find something, and it is $3.6 billion out of the military construction fund—it is actually a little over $6 billion total that the President took out of the FY19 defense budget to build a wall that Congress said they did not want.

I think this has huge implications and, as members of the Armed Services Committee, we ought to be alarmed about this. And I can guarantee you that if President Obama had done this to the defense budget, for any reason, there would have been no end to the fury about it, and rightly so. Because if we are going to say, Look, the defense budget is crucially important—in fact, particularly the members of the minority party in this body have frequently

argued that the defense budget is underfunded. They will give you chapter and verse and, in fact, did just a couple of months ago, about all the areas in our defense budget that don't have enough money.

Now they are standing up and saying, as short as the defense budget is, as much as we have claimed that there is not enough money in the defense budget, we are perfectly okay with the President taking $6 billion out of it for something that has nothing to do with the Department of Defense. That is an appalling position for any member of the Armed Services Committee to take.

This motion to instruct, while irrelevant substantially, does give us the opportunity to express the sense of Congress that this should not be done for any purpose.

It is worth noting that we had a big fight about 6, 7 months ago when we shut down the government. The President said he wanted to have his wall funding, and we entered into a negotiation and, at the end of it, I think we came up with about $1.5 billion that we allowed the President for his wall. So we had that fight.

And after that fight, he decided that the Pentagon was just one big piggy bank; that what we do over here is all kinds of irrelevant. We are throwing money out there and the President can grab it for any purpose.

I will just close by saying, I disagree with one statement that the distinguished ranking member of the Armed Services Committee said, and that is, you know, We can all argue about who is responsible for this.

Seriously?

It is pretty clear who is responsible for this. The President of the United States decided to take this $3.6 billion out of existing Pentagon projects and spend it on his wall after Congress said they didn't want it to be done.

Now you want to argue that he should have, because for whatever reason, that is fine. But there is no question why we are here. And there is no question that if Congress endorses this, if Congress says it is okay for the President of the United States to use the Pentagon as his own personal piggy bank—personal is a bit of an overstatement; I understand this is policy—but basically to decide to spend money wherever he wants to spend it, irrespective of what we say, why are we even here?

Why do we even bother to authorize what the Pentagon is doing?

So, again, these projects are already authorized. If the Pentagon wants to go find the money in the $738 billion that we have now all agreed that we are going to spend, they can go find it. But there is no way that the United States Congress ought to even irrelevantly endorse this particular action by the President.

I would strongly urge every Member to reject this motion to instruct.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), the distinguished ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding time and for his leadership on our committee.

I rise in support of Ranking Member THORNBERRY's motion to instruct conferees. It is vital that Congress fund all of the projects that have been listed today as we vote later. The Senate did the right thing, and now the House should follow suit.

Securing our border is a vital component to national security. If we can't control our borders, then we cannot tell the American people they are secure at home.

Even President Obama's former Attorney General, Eric Holder, said just this week: ''Democrats have to understand that borders mean something.''

This motion to instruct conferees supports the President's task of keeping America safe. It also supports our military by funding construction projects, including the weapons maintenance shop at Anniston Army Depot in my district. This project would consolidate maintenance operations that currently happen in different buildings in different States under one roof. This facility is in preparation for future modernizations in support of our force readiness.

This is a simple vote today for securing our borders and building projects for the military. I urge support of this motion.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to quickly point out, again, this doesn't make any difference in terms of whether or not these projects get funded.

Then, second, I think the gentleman is correct. This is a debate about whether or not it makes sense to spend money on the wall. But I just want to emphasize two points about that:

One, regardless how you feel about the wall, you should not be in favor of being able to simply take the money out of the Pentagon to pay for it.

Second, the border crisis that we have is not going to be even remotely alleviated by a wall. The border crisis that we have right now is asylum seekers pouring up to the border and turning themselves in. Now, there are all kinds of challenges associated with that, no question, and all kinds of policies that have led to that happening.

I think it is absolutely shameful right now the way the United States of America is handling this. So many people are seeking refuge from violence and horrific conditions, and we are treating them horribly; and there is a lot that we need to do to change that.

But building a wall will not stop asylum seekers. It is a billion-dollar waste of money focusing on a campaign promise instead of focusing on the actual problem that we have. But, again, that is a debate that Congress should have. They should not have it out of the Pentagon budget. This is the wrong place for it.

I urge Members to reject this Presidential grab of money out of the Pentagon that would set a very dangerous precedent.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time other than myself to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Earlier, the term was used that the President had stolen, or would steal this money. Actually, section 2808 authorizes any President, when a national emergency is declared, to transfer military construction funds to deal with that situation.

Now, again, we will debate about whether this was a true national emergency, and whether he should or should not have done it here. But the President did exactly what he has the authority to do. The only question is, what are—who is going to suffer because of that.

As the gentleman from Alabama pointed out, no President and no Member of Congress ought to have to choose between border security and supporting our troops. And yet, that is, unfortunately, the situation that, without adopting this motion to instruct, Members are put into.

The administration requested specifically, in the fiscal year 2020 budget request, that this $3.6 billion which was transferred out of military construction be put back into military construction so that these projects could be funded.

Now, you can have a 5-year authorization, but you have got to have the money that year in order to actually build them. And so that is what the Senate did in their provision. That is what this motion to instruct would instruct the House conferees to do, with more specificity.

Mr. Speaker, just so Members have a general idea, we are talking about a weapons maintenance shop in Alabama, central heat and power in the State of Alaska. Arizona has a ground transport equipment building. California has a C–130 simulator. Colorado, a space control facility; Florida, fire crash rescue station; Hawaii, security improvements for a gate; Indiana, construct a small arms range; Kentucky, Fort Campbell Middle School. Those are some of the specific projects, and I could go on. Louisiana has NORTHCOM, various air facility improvements; Maryland, a child development center at Joint Base Andrews; New Mexico, an MQ–9 ops facility.

Specific projects are listed in this motion to instruct, specific projects

which FY20 money would then fund, if the conferees would agree to what the Senate has already agreed to and what the motion seeks to get the House to endorse.

Again, Mr. Speaker, bottom line, there is a lot of argument on border issues. There is a lot of dysfunction in Washington these days. But our troops and their families should not suffer the consequences of those arguments and that dysfunction.

This motion to instruct offers a path forward to at least ensure that they have some insulation from those differences, and I urge Members to adopt it.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1423, FORCED ARBITRATION INJUSTICE REPEAL ACT; WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(A) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mrs. TORRES of California, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116–210) on the resolution (H. Res. 558) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1423) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

The motion to instruct on S. 1790; and

The motion to permit closed conference meetings on S. 1790, if offered.

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

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON S. 1790, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on the motion to instruct on the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 198, nays 219, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 531]

YEAS—198

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cunningham
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
McAdams
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Peterson
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Torres Small (NM)
Turner
Upton
Van Drew
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—219

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amash
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider

Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Abraham
Arrington
Clyburn
Cummings
DeSaulnier
Gabbard
Gonzalez (TX)
LaMalfa
Mast
McEachin
Roby
Ryan
Thompson (MS)
Webster (FL)
Wilson (FL)

□ 1859

Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Messrs. DEFAZIO, DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, PRICE of North Carolina, NEAL, HIMES, HUFFMAN, YARMUTH, MOULTON, Ms. OMAR, Messrs. WELCH, QUIGLEY, and Ms. SPEIER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. HARRIS, ROUZER, and STEWART changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from Katelyn Love, General Counsel, North Carolina State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held September 10, 2019, the Honorable Dan Bishop was elected Representative to Congress for the Ninth Congressional District, State of North Carolina.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS,
Raleigh, NC, September 12, 2019.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: This is to advise you that current unofficial election night results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, for a Representative in Congress from the Ninth Congressional District of North Carolina, show that Dan Bishop received 96,081 or 50.74% of the votes cast for that office.

While vote counting at the precinct and of approved absentee ballots occurs immediately after the polls close, provisional official ballots and absentee ballots received on or after Election Day, September 10, 2019, are still being counted. See N.C.G.S. 163A–1169(a), 163A–1310, 163A–1344, 163A–1346. Civilian and UOCAVA absentee ballots shall be counted if received by 5:00 pm on Friday, September 13, 2019 and all other requirements are met.

The county canvasses will occur on Monday, September 16, 2019. Prior to canvass, county boards of elections complete sample audit counts of a statistically significant sample in each county. The purpose of the audit is to provide for a sample hand-to-eye count of ballots in each county to ensure equipment used to count votes during the election worked properly.

Any protest concerning the conduct of the election must be filed with the county board of elections by 5:00 pm on Thursday, September 18, 2019. See N.C.G.S. 163A–1177. To the best of my knowledge and belief as of the date of this letter, no protest has been filed.

The State Board will hold its canvass on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. State and county board staff complete additional post-election audits prior to this date. After the State canvass of votes for the Ninth Congressional District of North Carolina has been completed, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

KATELYN LOVE,
General Counsel.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from Katelyn Love, General Counsel, North Carolina State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held September 10, 2019, the Honorable Greg Murphy was elected Representative to Congress for the Third Congressional District, State of North Carolina.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS,
Raleigh, NC, September 12, 2019.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: This is to advise you that current unofficial election night results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, for a Representative in Congress from the Third Congressional District of North Carolina, show that Greg Murphy received 70,142 or 61.74% of the votes cast for that office.

While vote counting at the precinct and of approved absentee ballots occurs immediately after the polls close, provisional official ballots and absentee ballots received on or after Election Day, September 10, 2019, are still being counted. See N.C.G.S. 163A–1169(a), 163A–1310, 163A–1344, 163A–1346. Due to Hurricane Dorian, the deadline to receive absentee ballots was extended. Civilian absentee ballots delivered by mail or commercial courier service shall be counted if postmarked by Election Day and received by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 18, 2019. UOCAVA absentee ballots shall be counted if received by 5:00 pm Thursday, September 19, 2019.

The county canvasses will occur on Friday, September 20, 2019. Prior to canvass, county boards of elections complete sample audit counts of a statistically significant sample in each county. The purpose of the audit is to provide for a sample hand-to-eye count of ballots in each county to ensure equipment used to count votes during the election worked properly.

Any protest concerning the conduct of the election must be filed with the county board of elections by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 24, 2019. See N.C.G.S. 163A–1177. To the best of my knowledge and belief as of the date of this letter, no protest has been filed.

The State Board will hold its canvass on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. State and county board staff complete additional post-election audits prior to this date. After the State canvass of votes for the Third Congressional District of North Carolina has been completed, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

KATELYN LOVE,
General Counsel.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE DAN BISHOP, OF NORTH CAROLINA, AND THE HONORABLE GREG MURPHY, OF NORTH CAROLINA, AS MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlemen from North Carolina, the Honorable Dan Bishop and the Honorable Greg Murphy, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Their certificates of election have not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to their elections.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the Representatives-elect please present themselves in the well.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now Members of the 116th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE DAN BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA AND THE HONORABLE GREG MURPHY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, as dean of the North Carolina delegation, it is my privilege to introduce our two newest colleagues, Representatives GREG MURPHY and DAN BISHOP.

Representative MURPHY was born in Raleigh, our capital city, before attending Davidson College and UNC Medical School. He is a urologist by training, and he has served in the North Carolina House of Representatives since 2015, focusing on healthcare policy.

Representative BISHOP was born in Charlotte and also graduated from the University of North Carolina as an undergraduate and from the law school. He has an extensive record of public service in North Carolina, initially elected as a commissioner in Mecklenburg County in 2005 before serving in both the North Carolina House and Senate.

Madam Speaker, I want to welcome both of these new Members to the people's House. They are experienced legislators who have traveled long and sometimes unexpected paths to get here, and they both face special challenges. The Ninth District has been without a House Member for 257 days following evidence of election fraud in the 2018 election. The Third District was represented by one of the most independent-minded and well-liked Members of this institution, our friend, the late Walter Jones, Jr.

Madam Speaker, our new Members had hard-fought campaigns, and the people of North Carolina have spoken. On behalf of our entire delegation and this entire body, I want to welcome them to the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who is the senior Republican in our delegation.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman PRICE for his very kind comments and associate myself with them.

I want to welcome our new Members, and I want to thank all of the Members here in advance for helping them feel welcomed to this wonderful body and for helping them get adjusted in a hurry to their work here.

Former Speaker Boehner always said that the North Carolina delegation punched above its weight. I want to say that, with the addition of these two wonderful Members, we are going to continue that tradition of punching above our weight and bring to the people's House a wealth of experience and a commitment to helping all of the people of the United States of America.

So I want to welcome, again, Representative BISHOP and Representative MURPHY to the people's House and say: God bless you, and may God continue to bless all of us.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Representative PRICE, Representative FOXX, members of the North Carolina delegation, and for all Members.

I want to say, just briefly, there is a cute, short blonde in that gallery up there. Her name is Jo Bishop, and I love her more than anything in the world. Right next to her is our only son, Jack, who needs to get back to North Carolina State University and do well in that test tomorrow.

I thank my family members—my sisters, Mary Ann and Cecelia—and the large group of our supporters for their support. I am grateful for the voters of the Ninth District and for all the Members.

Madam Speaker, I know that you and all the Members continue to feel this every day when you walk on this floor, the majesty of this place, what it represents and the history made here. It is an overwhelming experience.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to getting to know all the Members and working together with you to make commonsense solutions to make the lives of Americans better.

God bless you all.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank all the Members of the North Carolina delegation for making me feel so much at home. I thank all the Members for the warm welcome.

Just a moment of thanks:

I would like to thank my God for giving me the opportunity of life and the ability to experience all the great wonders that He has given us.

I thank this country for the freedom it has given me as an individual and how much I can enjoy that freedom.

I thank most of all, here in the room, my wonderful wife, Wendy, who has been with me side by side for all these elections. She followed me through medical school, through surgical residency, and through the maze of raising three wonderful children. I love her with all my heart.

I thank her parents, Gary and Carol Simes, who have supported me all the way; my cousins, Frank Wood and Betsy Wood; and all the clan who have come from eastern North Carolina and even from Davidson College to support me.

I thank the people of eastern North Carolina for bringing me here, and I thank, especially, one particular member of my campaign team, Lynda Blount, who could not be here tonight. She is with us in heart and spirit, and we love her very, very much.

I also want to thank Congressman Walter Jones. Walter was a friend of mine, and he was a mentor. I know he was beloved by this institution, and I would not be here today without him.

So, Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with each and every one of you and getting to know each and every one of you so that we can continue to make this the greatest nation on Earth.

May God bless you all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlemen from North Carolina, the whole number of the House is 435.

MOTION TO CLOSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON S. 1790, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, I move that meetings of the conference between the House and the Senate on the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, may be closed to the public at such times as classified national security information may be discussed, provided that any sitting Member of Congress shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, the motion is not debatable, and the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 4, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 532]

YEAS—407

Adams	Bishop (UT)	Carter (GA)
Aderholt	Blunt Rochester	Carter (TX)
Aguilar	Bonamici	Cartwright
Allen	Bost	Case
Allred	Boyle, Brendan F.	Casten (IL)
Amodei	Brady	Castor (FL)
Armstrong	Brindisi	Castro (TX)
Arrington	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Axne	Brooks (IN)	Cheney
Babin	Brown (MD)	Chu, Judy
Bacon	Brownley (CA)	Cicilline
Baird	Buchanan	Cisneros
Balderson	Buck	Clark (MA)
Banks	Bucshon	Clarke (NY)
Barr	Budd	Cleaver
Barragán	Burchett	Cline
Bass	Burgess	Cloud
Beatty	Bustos	Cohen
Bera	Butterfield	Cole
Bergman	Byrne	Collins (GA)
Beyer	Calvert	Collins (NY)
Biggs	Carbajal	Comer
Bilirakis	Cárdenas	Conaway
Bishop (GA)	Carson (IN)	Connolly
Bishop (NC)		Cook

Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—4

Amash
Blumenauer
Massie
Tlaib

NOT VOTING—23

Abraham
Clay
Clyburn
Cummings
DeFazio
DeSaulnier
Gabbard
Hoyer
LaMalfa
Loebsack
Mast
McEachin
Quigley
Roby
Ryan
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Smith (NJ)
Thompson (MS)
Trone
Walker
Webster (FL)
Wilson (FL)

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So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMITTING STATES TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FUNDS FROM CLEAN WATER REVOLVING FUND TO DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 1689) to permit States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HOULAHAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1689

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

SECTION 1. TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) lead is a toxic chemical that—

(A) is particularly harmful to young children; and

(B) can cause reduced intelligence quotients, attention disorders, and other serious health problems;

(2) excessive and harmful levels of lead have been found in water systems across all 50 States and those water systems serve drinking water to millions of people in the United States;

(3) hundreds of the water systems described in paragraph (2) are water systems that provide drinking water to schools or day care centers;

(4) not all States have sufficient funds in the drinking water revolving fund of that State to address the threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in drinking water; and

(5) some States have available funds in the clean water revolving fund of that State that could be used to provide additional resources to help address lead in drinking water.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLEAN WATER REVOLVING FUND.—The term ''clean water revolving fund'' means a State water pollution control revolving fund established under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).

(2) DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND.—The term ''drinking water revolving fund'' means a State drinking water treatment revolving loan fund established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12).

(c) AUTHORITY.—In addition to the transfer authority in section 302(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 300j–12 note; Public Law 104–182), and notwithstanding section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)), during the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, if a State, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, determines that available funds in the clean water revolving fund of the State are necessary to address a threat to public health as a result of heightened exposure to lead in drinking water, the State may transfer an amount equal to not more than 5 percent of the cumulative clean water revolving fund Federal grant dollars to the State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State. Funds transferred pursuant to this subsection shall be used by the State to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, or grants (or any combination of these).

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALASKA REMOTE GENERATOR RELIABILITY AND PROTECTION ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 163) to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 163

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Alaska Remote Generator Reliability and Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. REVISION OF REGULATIONS REQUIRED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall revise section 60.4216(c) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), by striking ''that was not certified'' and all that follows through ''compared to engine-out emissions'' and inserting ''must have that engine certified as meeting at least Tier 3 PM standards''.

(b) EMISSIONS AND ENERGY RELIABILITY STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report assessing options for the Federal Government to assist remote areas in the State of Alaska in meeting the energy needs of those areas in an affordable and reliable manner using—

(1) existing emissions control technology; or

(2) other technology that achieves emissions reductions similar to the technology described in paragraph (1).

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4297

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor on H.R. 4297.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 132

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as cosponsor of H.R. 132.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON S. 1790, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on S. 1790:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the Senate bill and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, COURTNEY, GARAMENDI, Ms. SPEIER, Messrs. NORCROSS, GALLEGO, MOULTON, CARBAJAL, BROWN of Maryland, KHANNA, KEATING, VELA, KIM, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Messrs. CISNEROS, THORNBERRY, WILSON of South Carolina, TURNER, ROGERS of Alabama, CONAWAY, LAMBORN, WITTMAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. STEFANIK, Messrs. KELLY of Mississippi, BACON, BANKS, and Ms. CHENEY.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. NUNES.

From the Committee on the Budget, for consideration of sections 4 and 10608 of the Senate bill, and sections 1006 and 1112 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. YARMUTH, PETERS, and JOHNSON of Ohio.

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of sections 571, 572, and 5501 of the Senate bill, and sections 211, 576, 580, 1099N, 1117, 3120, and 3503 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Ms. FOXX of North Carolina.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sections 214, 315, 318, 703, 3112, 3113, 3201–03, 5318, 6001, 6006, 6021, 6701, 6711, 6721–24, 6741, 6742, 6751–54, 8101, 8202, 10421, 10422, and 10742 of the Senate bill, and sections 315, 330F, 330H, 330O, 606, 737, 3111, 3112, 3127, 3128, 3201, and 3202 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. PALLONE, TONKO, and UPTON.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of sections 6017, 6018, 6804, 6811, 6813–16, 6834, 6835, and title LXIX of the Senate bill, and sections 550K, 560G, subtitle I of title X, sections 1240B, 1292, 1704, 1711, 1713–16, 1733, and 2843 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. WATERS, Messrs. SHERMAN, and BARR.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of sections 834, 1011, 1043, 1202, 1203, 1205, 1206, 1211, 1212, 1215, 1221–24, 1231–36, 1238, 1252, 1281–84, title XIII, sections 1671, 1681, 2822, 6203–06, 6210, 6213, 6215, 6231, 6236, title LXVIII, sections 6921, 6922, 6931, 6941, 6943, 6954, part I of subtitle B of title LXXXV, section 8562, and 10701 of the Senate bill, and sections 634, 1036, 1046, 1050, 1099X, 1201, 1202, 1204, 1207, 1210, 1213, 1215, 1218, 1221–25, 1229, 1231–34, 1240A, 1241, 1250D, 1251, 1255, 1258, 1260A, 1260B, 1265, 1266, 1269, 1270, 1270G, 1270H, 1270I, 1270N, 1270R, 1270S, 1270T, 1270W, subtitle I of title XII, subtitle J of title XII, title XIII, sections 1521, 1669, and title XVII of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ENGEL, MEEKS, and MCCAUL.

□ 1930

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of sections 6006, 6012, and 8543 of the Senate bill, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. WALKER.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 1025, 1031, 1044, 1682, 6004, 6206, 6804, 6811, 6813–16, 6835, 6921, and 6944 of the Senate bill, and sections 530F, 530G, 550D, 550F, 550J, 570H, 729, 827, 1011, 1048, 1049, 1050C, 1093, 1099C, 1099K, 1099V, 1099Z–3, 1212, 1296A, 1704, 1711, 1713–16, and 1733 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of sections 314, 2812, 2814, 6001, 6020, subtitle C of title LXVII, section 8524, part I of subtitle B of title LXXXV, sections 8554, and 8571 of the Senate bill, and sections 330G, 1094, 1099D, 1099F, 1099U, 2851, subtitle F of title XXVIII, sections 2876, and 2880 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

From the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for consideration of sections 218, 530, 559, 579, 1081, 1082, title XI, sections 5802, 6012, subtitle B of title LXV, sections 9304, 9307, 9311, 9313, 9314, 10303, 10432, 10434, 10601, 10603–05, 10612, 10741, and 10742 of the Senate bill, and sections 212, 239, 550O, 629, 633, 804, 829, 842, 861, 872, 877, 883, 884, 891, 895, 899E, 899H, 899I, 1064, 1085, 1099B, title XI, sections 1704, 1711, 1713–16, and 3127 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. LYNCH, CONNOLLY, and GREEN of Tennessee.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sections 216, 219, 1612, 6001, 6006, 6008, 6009, 6742, 6754, 8524, and 10742 of the Senate bill, and sections 214, 217, 882, and 1089 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. JOHNSON of Texas, SHERRILL, and Mr. BAIRD.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of section 841 of the Senate bill, and sections 872–76, 878, 879, 881, 882, and 886–89 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Messrs. GOLDEN, and CHABOT.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 353, 1612, 1682, 2805, title XXXV, sections 6001, 6006, 6012, 6015, 6019, 6021, 6754, 8500, 8511, 8517, 8519, 8520, 8522, 8523, 8525, 8532, 8543, 8545, 8546, and 8571 of the Senate bill, and sections 311, 313, 330A, 330O, 351, 354, 555, 569, 580C, 606, 896, 2808, 3501, and 3504 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. DELGADO, PAPPAS, and KATKO.

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of sections 568, 721, 726, 727, 1083, 1431, 2812, 2813, 5702, and 6007 of the Senate bill, and sections 530, 530A, 545, 546, 550E, 550G, 550H, 550I, 550J, 569, 570E, 570F, 574, 624, 705, 706, 713, 715, 1093, 1126, and 1411 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. WATKINS.

There was no objection.

CALLING FOR EXPANDED CIVICS EDUCATION ON NATIONAL CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on National Constitution Day to renew my call for expanded civics education.

The father of our Constitution, James Madison, wrote: ''A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps both.''

Yet, today, it feels as if we are in the middle acts of Madison's feared drama.

Sadly, only 26 percent of Americans can name all three branches of government, and 37 percent cannot name a single right guaranteed under the First Amendment. Meanwhile, public trust in government and voter participation is low, and foreign adversaries have taken advantage of this to sow discord among us.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to include a program in the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act to fund further development and evaluation of civics education programs, but this is just a first step. We must ensure that every child has access to evidence-based civics programs. The future of our democracy depends on it.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FAMILY MEALS MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Family Meals Month.

Between work, school, and extracurricular activities, it can be hard to find time to share a meal as a family, but the benefits that come from carving out time to eat together are rewarded tenfold.

Family meals are great for the mind, body, and spirit. Regular meals provide children and their parents with great nutritional value, helping them to meet the recommended servings of fruits and vegetables. It also expands the variety of food children will eat, making them less picky about what is on the table.

For young, developing children, conversation heard at the dinner table involves vocabulary and reading comprehension. Adolescents also benefit, often being more likely to achieve higher grades in school.

Meals bring families closer and provide a setting for parents and children to engage in meaningful dialogue that can reduce stress and negative behavior and improve communications skills.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all families to prioritize time for family meals and strengthen their ties to one another.

TRANSFORM STUDENT DEBT TO HOME EQUITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in response to two crises facing America's young adults: the student debt crisis and the homeownership crisis.

Since World War II, America's middle class experienced unprecedented growth in homeownership and wealth accumulation. Tragically, today, due to exploding levels of student debt, which, cumulatively, total over $1.5 trillion, the option of homeownership for far too many young, aspiring Americans remains out of reach.

The homeownership rate for those under 35 is just 36 percent, 10 percentage points lower than 2006. These dismal numbers have exacerbated the racial wealth gap as well.

During the financial crash of 2008, African Americans lost half of their accumulated wealth since the founding of the Republic. In 2017, African American homeownership fell to 43 percent, effectively negating any progress since the Fair Housing Act.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 3511, the Transform Student Debt to Home Equity Act. My bill directs HUD and the Federal Housing Finance Agency to establish a pilot program to renegotiate creditworthy Federal student debt holders with eligible homes.

I thank the Financial Services Committee for considering it this week, and I ask my colleagues to consider cosponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING THE MUSSER FAMILY

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Musser family of Michigan for nearly nine decades of outstanding tradition and service at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan's beautiful First District.

The famous ''world's largest front porch'' has welcomed five sitting U.S. Presidents, thousands of dignitaries, business leaders, movie stars, and over 150,000 guests each season.

The rich traditions of the Grand Hotel are world-renowned and have set the standards in the tourism industry for almost a century.

I personally congratulate my friend Dan Musser on 30 years of exceptional service as the president of the Grand and wish him and his wife, Marlee, and his sister, Mimi Cunningham, all the best as they pass the torch and set out on new adventures.

HONORING NICK BUONICONTI

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

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my friend Nick Buoniconti, the humanitarian and football legend. He passed away on July 30, 2019, at the age of 78.

Nick's career with the Miami Dolphins began in 1969. With his help, the Dolphins went undefeated in 1972, culminating with a Super Bowl victory. The team won the Super Bowl the next year as well and remains the only team in the National Football League to go an entire season undefeated.

After Nick retired from professional football, his son Marc sustained a spinal cord injury in a college football game, leaving him paralyzed from the neck down.

After this, Nick dedicated himself to focusing on his son's health and supporting the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, of which Marc currently serves as president.

In addition, Nick and his family founded the Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, which has raised over $500 million in support of the Miami Project's research objectives.

Nick Buoniconti's influence will be felt in Miami for years to come. We will remember him with love and pride.

□ 1945

HONORING THE LIFETIME OF SERVICE OF TERRY OTTINGER

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry Ottinger, who has retired after 14 years of faithful service on staff with the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce and, 17 years before that, as a business owner. Few have done more to advance the cause of the local entrepreneur than Terry.

Since 1921, the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce has served as an advocate for business and, today, is the largest chamber in Polk County, with over 1,400 investor businesses.

During Terry's tenure as chamber vice president, Lakeland has risen to the fourth fastest growing metropolitan area in the Nation. His leadership has been instrumental in expanding training workshops, promoting small business development, and providing opportunities for investors and visionaries to network.

The city of Lakeland is a stronger regional partner and a more desirable location for prospective businesses because of Terry's professionalism, strategic outlook, team building talents, and honest friendship.

Thank you, Terry. Thank you for a lifetime of service. You are not done, though, and we look forward to keeping you engaged in our community for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY MARTINEZ, SR.

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

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Anthony Martinez, Sr., a true leader in Delano, California, and the

Central Valley, who dedicated his life to helping others.

Tony was born in Santa Paula, California, and grew up in Hanford, where he graduated from high school, and then went on to pursue higher education at Bakersfield College, San Jose State, and Porterville College.

A selfless leader, Tony proudly served in the California National Guard and the United States Air Force.

Among his many jobs in life, Tony managed a Thrifty Drug Store, but then, with the support of his wife, Pat, accomplished a lifelong dream by opening the renowned Tony's Pizza in Delano and also founded the Anthony Martinez Farmers Insurance Agency.

During his impressive 40-year business career, Tony volunteered countless hours to his community and served in elected roles as both a city council member and as mayor.

Tony passed away on June 20, 2019, but he leaves behind a legacy that will live on.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Anthony ''Tony'' Martinez. May he rest in peace, and may we always remember his dedication to Delano, the Central Valley, and our great Nation.

AUGUST 2019 JOBS REPORT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the August jobs report, job numbers were once again strong. Over 570,000 people joined the labor force, and the unemployment rate remained at its 50-year low of 3.7 percent. In addition, 130,000 jobs were added in the United States and wages were increased.

I am grateful for this consistent change for the better and for President Donald Trump's policies in continuing to create jobs. By creating jobs, lowering unemployment, and increasing wages, President Trump is continuing his effective record of keeping his promises. With more jobs created, there has been also an impressive increase in wages.

One number that specifically stood out in this past August's report was the number of women employed. Currently, the number of employed women is at the highest level since 2002.

I am grateful that the Trump administration will continue to focus on American families and the creation of jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

I am grateful to recognize today is Constitution Day.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT SEAN DUFFY

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor a remarkable young man of South Jersey.

Recently, Scout Sean Duffy of Egg Harbor Township in South Jersey earned the outstanding honor of becoming an Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout project, Sean decided to beautify the nature reserve in Egg Harbor Township.

Sean led his fellow scouts in the construction of the gazebo and oversaw the project from the very beginning to the very end. Because of this exceptional young man, the community of Egg Harbor Township can enjoy a new place of recreation and gathering at the nature reserve for many years to come.

At times, we must all take initiative and assume a role of leadership. We continue to be inspired by brave and passionate young people like Sean Duffy who step forward and guide their peers in order to better their own community. We are proud of him. He is a true leader.

Congratulations, Sean. We wish you the best going forward and thank you for your contribution to our community. South Jersey, New Jersey, and the United States of America are proud of the work that you have done.

Good luck.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4003(e) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. 114–255), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Dr. Jim Jirjis, Nashville, Tennessee

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MAST (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today through final votes on September 18 on account of a death in the family.

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. Con. Res. 25. Concurrent resolution recognizing September 11, 2019, as a ''National Day of Service and Remembrance''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1200. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

> ''I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.''

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 116th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

GREGORY F. MURPHY,
Third District of North Carolina.
DAN BISHOP,
Ninth District of North Carolina.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second and third quarters of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, REV. PATRICK J. CONROY, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 26 AND AUG. 5, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Patrick J. Conroy	7/27	7/29	Paris, France		350.00		(3)				350.00
	7/29	7/31	Venice, Italy		294.00		(3)				294.00
	7/31	8/3	Rome, Italy		411.00		(3)				411.00
	8/3	8/5	Rabat, Morocco		536.00		(3)				536.00
Committee total					1,591.00						1,591.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

REV. PATRICK J. CONROY, Sept. 9, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, WILLIE LYLES III, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 4 AND AUG. 9, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Willie Lyles, III	8/4	8/9	Italy/Germany				3,971.03				
	8/5	8/6	Italy						196.47		
	8/5	8/6	Italy	€129.00	142.00						
	8/6	8/7	Germany	€218.86	242.00						
	8/6	8/7	Germany						140.00		
	8/8	8/9	Germany	€96.77	107.00						
	8/8	8/9	Germany						145.90		
Committee total				€444.63	491.00		3,971.03		482.37		4,944.40

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

MR. WILLIE LYLES, III, Aug. 29, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SARAH BURKE, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 3 AND AUG. 13, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Sarah Burke	8/4	8/6	Japan		458.00		(3)				458.00
	8/6	8/8	Singapore		264.00		(3)				264.00
	8/8	8/11	Australia		406.00		(3)				406.00
	8/11	8/12	Fiji		96.00		(3)				96.00
Committee total					1,224.00						1,224.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

MS. SARAH BURKE, Sept. 3, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ITALY AND GHANA, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 26 AND AUG. 1, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. James Clyburn	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. John Lewis	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Bobby Rush	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Barbara Lee	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Yvette Clarke	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Hank Johnson	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Marcia Fudge	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Karen Bass	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Terri Sewell	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Frederica Wilson	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Joyce Beatty	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Ilhan Omar	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Terri McCullough	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Wyndee Parker	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Kate Knudson Wolters	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Ashley Etienne	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Kristina Jeter	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Julio Obscura	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Michael Collins	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Janette Yarwood	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00		(3)				915.00
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. James Clyburn	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. John Lewis	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Bobby Rush	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Barbara Lee	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Yvette Clarke	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ITALY AND GHANA, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 26 AND AUG. 1, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Hank Johnson	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Marcia Fudge	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Karen Bass	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Terri Sewell	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Frederica Wilson	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Joyce Beatty	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Hon. Ilhan Omar	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Terri McCullough	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Wyndee Parker	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Kate Knudson Wolters	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Ashley Etienne	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Kristina Jeter	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Julio Obscura	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Michael Collins	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Janette Yarwood	7/28	8/01	Ghana		981.00		(3)				981.00
Michael Long	7/27	8/01	Ghana		1,242.00		4,067.53				5,309.53
Latrice Powell	7/27	8/01	Ghana		1,242.00		4,067.53				5,309.53
Committee total					46,092.00		8,135.06				54,227.06

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Sept. 3, 2019.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ITALY AND GHANA, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 26 AND AUG. 1, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. James Clyburn	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. John Lewis	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Bobby Rush	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Barbara Lee	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Yvette Clarke	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Hank Johnson	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Marcia Fudge	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Karen Bass	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Terri Sewell	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Frederica Wilson	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Joyce Beatty	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Ilhan Omar	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Terri McCullough	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Wyndee Parker	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Kate Knudson Wolters	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Ashley Etienne	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Kristina Jeter	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Julio Obscura	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Michael Collins	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Janette Yarwood	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Paul Irving	7/27	7/28	Italy		915.00	(3)					915.00
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. James Clyburn	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. John Lewis	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Bobby Rush	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Barbara Lee	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Yvette Clarke	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Hank Johnson	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Marcia Fudge	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Karen Bass	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Terri Sewell	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Frederica Wilson	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Joyce Beatty	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Hon. Ilhan Omar	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Paul Irving	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Terri McCullough	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Wyndee Parker	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Kate Knudson Wolters	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Ashley Etienne	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Kristina Jeter	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Julio Obscura	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Michael Collins	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Janette Yarwood	7/28	8/1	Ghana		981.00	(3)					981.00
Michael Long	7/27	8/1	Ghana		1,308.00	(3)	$4,067.53				5,375.53
Latrice Powell	7/27	8/1	Ghana		1,308.00	(3)	$4,067.53				5,375.53
Committee total					48,120.00		8,135.06				56,255.06

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, SEPT. 10, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, AND HONDURAS, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 8 AND AUG. 11, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Eliot Engel	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Nydia Velázquez	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, AND HONDURAS, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 8 AND AUG. 11, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jim McGovern	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Lucille Roybal-Allard	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Henry Cuellar	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Amata Coleman Radewagen	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Norma Torres	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Anthony Brown	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Mary Gay Scanlon	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Jesus Garcia	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Katie Hill	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Lauren Underwood	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Paul Irving	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Wyndee Parker	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Kate Knudson Wolters	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Emily Berret	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Taylor Griffin	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Eric Jacobstein	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Cindy Buhl	8/8	8/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Eliot Engel	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Nydia Velazquez	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Jim McGovern	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Lucille Roybal-Allard	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Henry Cuellar	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Amata Coleman-Radewagen	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Norma Torres	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Anthony Brown	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Mary Gay Scanlon	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Jesus Garcia	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Katie Hill	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Hon. Lauren Underwood	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Paul Irving	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Wyndee Parker	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Kate Knudson Wolters	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Emily Berret	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Taylor Griffin	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Eric Jacobstein	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Cindy Buhl	8/9	8/10	Honduras		284.00		(3)				284.00
Committee total					10,563.00						10,563.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Sept. 12, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Travel to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia—April 13–19, 2019 with CODEL McCarthy											
Hon. William M. "Mac" Thornberry	4/13	4/15	Argentina		723.96						723.96
	4/15	4/17	Brazil		666.02						666.02
	4/17	4/19	Germany		579.22						579.22
Travel to Afghanistan—April 16–17, 2019											
Paul Arcangeli	4/16	4/17	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
Commercial airfare							10,693.93				10,693.93
Jennifer Stewart	4/16	4/17	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
Commercial airfare							10,693.93				10,693.93
William Johnson	4/16	4/17	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
Commercial airfare							10,693.93				10,693.93
Mark Morehouse	4/16	4/17	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
Commercial airfare							10,693.93				10,693.93
Peter Villano	4/16	4/17	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
Commercial airfare							10,693.93				10,693.93
Lindsay Kavanaugh	4/16	4/17	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
Commercial airfare							10,693.93				10,693.93
Travel to Afghanistan, Jordan—May 2–7, 2019											
Hon. Susan Davis	5/4	5/5	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
	5/5	5/7	Jordan		771.37						771.37
Commercial airfare							18,416.73				18,416.73
Hon. Xochitl Torres Small	5/4	5/5	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
	5/5	5/7	Jordan		771.37						771.37
Commercial airfare							18,416.73				18,416.73
Hon. Kendra Horn	5/4	5/5	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
	5/5	5/7	Jordan		771.37						771.37
Commercial airfare							18,416.73				18,416.73
Craig Greene	5/4	5/5	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
	5/5	5/7	Jordan		771.37						771.37
Commercial airfare							18,416.73				18,416.73
Sarah Mineiro	5/4	5/5	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
	5/5	5/7	Jordan		771.37						771.37
Commercial airfare							18,416.73				18,416.73
Travel to Australia—May 28–31, 2019											
Hon. William M. "Mac" Thornberry	5/28	5/31	Australia		1,033.63						1,033.63
Commercial airfare							14,011.33				14,011.33
Jennifer Stewart	5/28	5/31	Australia		1,033.63						1,033.63
Commercial airfare							14,011.33				14,011.33
Travel to Korea, Singapore—May 28–June 3, 2019											
Hon. Adam Smith	5/29	5/31	South Korea		729.13						729.13
	5/31	6/3	Singapore		1,223.64						1,223.64
Commercial airfare							9,983.63				9,983.63
Hon. William M. "Mac" Thornberry	5/31	6/3	Singapore		1,223.64						1,223.64
Hon. Rick Larsen	5/29	5/31	South Korea		729.13						729.13
	5/31	6/3	Singapore		1,223.64						1,223.64
Commercial airfare							8,799.33				8,799.33
Hon. Anthony Brown	5/29	5/31	South Korea		729.13						729.13

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	5/31	6/3	Singapore		1,223.64						1,223.64
Commercial airfare							16,650.23				16,650.23
Hon. Donald Norcross	5/29	5/31	South Korea		729.13						729.13
	5/31	6/3	Singapore		1,223.64						1,223.64
Commercial airfare							10,780.38				10,780.38
Paul Arcangeli	5/29	5/31	South Korea		729.13						729.13
	5/31	6/3	Singapore		1,223.64						1,223.64
Commercial airfare							15,947.43				15,947.43
Jennifer Stewart	5/31	6/3	Singapore		1,223.64						1,223.64
Matt Rhoades	5/29	5/31	South Korea		729.13						729.13
	5/31	6/3	Singapore		1,223.64						1,223.64
Commercial airfare							15,947.43				15,947.43
Mark Morehouse	5/29	5/31	South Korea		729.13						729.13
	5/31	6/3	Singapore		1,223.64						1,223.64
Commercial airfare							16,042.33				16,042.33
Committee total					24,372.98		278,420.65				302,793.63

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ADAM SMITH, Aug. 30, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Erika Schlager	4/10	4/13	Slovakia	Euro	779.00		13,208.63				13,987.63
	4/13	4/14	Austria	Euro	197.07						197.07
Janice Helwig	4/16	4/17	Poland	Zloty			1,538.10				1,538.10
Rachel Bauman	3/27	4/2	Ukraine	Hryvnia	1,954.17		11,089.73				13,043.90
Robert Hand	4/5	4/8	Denmark	Krone	1,046.00		942.43				1,988.43
Mark Toner	4/11	4/13	Austria	Euro	738.14		13,129.03				13,867.17
Robert Hand	4/17	4/23	North Macedonia	Denar	1,343.97		1,830.43				3,174.40
Alex Johnson	4/21	4/23	Ukraine	Hryvnia	746.48		11,086.03				11,832.51
	4/23	4/25	Hungary	Forint	696.00						696.00
	4/25	4/29	Romania	Leu	566.00						566.00
Mischa Thompson	5/20	5/23	United Kingdom	Pound	1,728.35		14,860.93				16,589.28
	5/23	5/27	Romania	Leu	731.37						731.37
Paul Massaro	5/29	6/1	Canada	Dollar	948.00		9,075.91				10,023.91
	6/2	6/5	United Kingdom	Pound	1,401.27						1,401.27
	6/5	6/7	France	Euro							
Everett Price	6/3	6/5	United Kingdom	Pound	934.18		2,745.53				3,679.71
	6/5	6/7	France	Euro							
Alex Tiersky	6/4	6/8	France	Euro	1,391.00		1,703.33				3,094.33
Committee total					15,201.00		81,210.08				96,411.08

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS, Aug. 26, 2019.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 2486, the FUTURE Act, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 2486

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2019–2024	2019–2029
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (−) IN THE DEFICIT													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	−131	−84	154	68	−37	13	133	−41	−39	−35	−30	0

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2140. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed rule — Organization; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Investment Eligibility (RIN: 3052-AD35), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2141. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of The President, transmitting the Office's Sequestration Update Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2020, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 904(e); Public Law 99-177, Sec. 254(e) (as amended Public Law 112-25, Sec. 103); (125 Stat. 246); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2142. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2143. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's policy guidance and procedural rule — Policy on Compliance Assistance Sandbox [Docket No.: CFPB-2018-0042] received September 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2144. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2019-0003; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8589] received September 9, 2019,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2145. A letter from the Acting Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Project Approval for Single-Family Condominiums [Docket No.: FR-5715-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AJ30) received September 5, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2146. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Regional Haze Plan and Prong 4 (Visibility) for the 2006 and 2012 PM2.5, 2010 NO2, 2010 SO2, and 2008 Ozone NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2017-0700; FRL-9999-33-Region 5] received September 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2147. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Compliance Monitoring Usage [EPA-R07-2019-0315; FRL-9998-90-Region 7] received September 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2148. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Iowa and Nebraska Air Quality Implementation Plans; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standard Interstate Transport [EPA-R07-OAR-2019-0332; FRL-9998-89-Region 7] received September 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2149. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval: ID; Update to CRB Fee Billing Procedures [EPA-R10-OAR-2019-0403; FRL-9998-96-Region 10] received September 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2150. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Spinosad; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0525; FRL-9995-90] received September 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2151. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (17-3) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2017-0464; FRL-9998-12] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received September 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2152. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2017-0414; FRL-9999-26] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received September 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2153. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Reconsideration of the Area Designation for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Williamson County, Illinois [EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0011; FRL-9999-60-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AU14) received September 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2154. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pyraflufen-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0514; FRL-9998-98] received September 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2155. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Adopting Subpart Ba Requirements in Emission Guidelines for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills [EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0696: FRL-9998-82-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AU33) received September 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2156. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report covering the period from March 12 to May 10, 2019 on the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501) and 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 102-1, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 1501A-422); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2157. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Venezuela that was declared in Executive Order 13629 of March 8, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2158. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a semi-annual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Treasury Department licenses during the period from January 1 through June 30, 2019, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6); Public Law 102-484, Sec. 1705(e)(6) (as amended by Public Law 104-114, Sec. 102(g)); (110 Stat. 794); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2159. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2160. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2161. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting reports concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2162. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-40, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2163. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-35, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2164. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-48, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2165. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-46, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2166. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-50, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2167. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-005, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2168. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-023, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2169. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final action — Clean Water Act Hazardous Substances Spill Prevention [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2018-0024; FRL-9999-99-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AG87) received September 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mrs. TORRES of California: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 558. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1423) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 116–210). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 4340. A bill to assist in the conservation of highly endangered amphibian species in foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. WILD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BEYER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 4341. A bill to assist in the conservation of critically endangered species in foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. FINKENAUER (for herself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 4342. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to conduct a study on the feasibility of a single certification for certain programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself and Mr. SMUCKER):

H.R. 4343. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to publish requirements for financial aid offers to be provided by institutions of higher education to enrolled and prospective students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MCADAMS (for himself and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 4344. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to allow the Securities and Exchange Commission to seek and Federal courts to grant disgorgement of unjust enrichment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. LURIA (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. MCEACHIN):

H.R. 4345. 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 Natural Resources.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 4346. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments to the regulation of surface-disturbing activities and to protect taxpayers from unduly bearing the reclamation costs of oil and gas development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 4347. A bill to enhance the Federal Government's planning and preparation for extreme weather and the Federal Government's dissemination of best practices to respond to extreme weather, thereby increasing resilience, improving regional coordination, and mitigating the financial risk to the Federal Government from such extreme weather, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PORTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 4348. A bill to terminate certain rules issued by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce relating to endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 4349. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that floor plan financing includes the financing of certain trailers and campers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 4350. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize payments for ambulatory surgical centers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HECK (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. CLAY, Ms. FOXX of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H.R. 4351. A bill to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track discriminatory land use policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BACON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. MITCHELL):

H.R. 4352. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide grants to develop and enhance, or to evaluate, kinship navigator programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 4353. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in primary care offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 4354. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to prescribe a motor vehicle safety standard requiring motor vehicles to be equipped with an advanced alcohol detection device that prevents a vehicle from being operated if the operator is intoxicated, to provide for a fleet demonstration of such devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio (for himself, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. BAIRD, and Ms. HILL of California):

H.R. 4355. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 4356. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to allow certain individuals to terminate contracts for telephone, multichannel video programming, or internet access service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 4357. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to charge and collect not less than the fair market value for forest botanical products harvested on National Forest System lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. CUNNINGHAM):

H.R. 4358. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit to Congress a report on preliminary damage assessment and to establish damage assessment teams in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. POCAN, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 4359. A bill to provide that a Federal law enforcement officer may not use deadly force or less lethal force unless such force is necessary, to encourage States to adopt similar laws or policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. HILL of Arkansas):

H.R. 4360. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to recovery of overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MALINOWSKI (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 4361. A bill to require an accounting of certain property forfeited to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 4362. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exception from certain reporting requirements with respect to the foreign accounts of individuals who live abroad; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 4363. A bill to establish a commission to study how Federal laws and policies affect United States citizens living in foreign countries; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on

Financial Services, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, House Administration, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCADAMS (for himself and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 4364. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments to the fiscal terms for fossil fuel development and to make other reforms to improve returns to taxpayers for the development of Federal energy resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 4365. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 4366. A bill to require oversight of licenses involving financial services and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee:

H.R. 4367. A bill to support the capacity of the International Monetary Fund to prevent money laundering and financing of terrorism; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 4368. A bill to prohibit the use of trade secrets privileges to prevent defense access to evidence in criminal proceedings, provide for the establishment of Computational Forensic Algorithm Standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALKER (for himself, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. SPANO, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 4369. A bill to expand access to apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships among certain populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Armed Services, 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 Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H. Res. 559. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 15, 2019, through September 21, 2019, as ''Balance Awareness Week''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H. Res. 560. A resolution inquiring whether the House of Representatives should impeach Brett M. Kavanaugh, an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America; to the Committee on Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 4340.

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

Article I, Clause 8, Section 18 to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 4341.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. FINKENAUER:

H.R. 4342.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 4343.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCADAMS:

H.R. 4344.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. LURIA:

H.R. 4345.

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

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

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 4346.

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

Atiicle IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution

''The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.''

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4347.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 4348.

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

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 4349.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 4350.

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

Under Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HECK:

H.R. 4351.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 4352.

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

Article 1, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, providing—''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.''

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 4353.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 4354.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio:

H.R. 4355.

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

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

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 4356.

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

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:

H.R. 4357.

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

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

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 4358.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 4359.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KIM:

H.R. 4360.

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

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

By Mr. MALINOWSKI:

H.R. 4361.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4362.

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

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

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4363.

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

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

By Mr. MCADAMS:

H.R. 4364.

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

Article I, section 8

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 4365.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 4366.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee:
H.R. 4367.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. TAKANO:
H.R. 4368.
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. WALKER:
H.R. 4369.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 40: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 94: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 96: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 140: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 149: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 155: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 333: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 361: Mr. ESTES.
H.R. 414: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 500: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 510: Mr. DELGADO and Mrs. MILLER.
H.R. 550: Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 553: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 587: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 598: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 647: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 649: Mr. WRIGHT.
H.R. 655: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 728: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 835: Mr. ROUDA.
H.R. 848: Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 871: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 912: Mr. GALLEGO and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 913: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 921: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 943: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COSTA, Mr. NEAL, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 948: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 961: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 1002: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 1007: Mr. ROUDA and Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 1055: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 1073: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 1078: Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 1118: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1119: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1120: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1134: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1152: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 1166: Mr. CISNEROS and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 1174: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 1221: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1230: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 1236: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1272: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 1309: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 1370: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1379: Mr. WALTZ and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1407: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1417: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 1440: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 1446: Mr. KATKO and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.
H.R. 1530: Mrs. MILLER.
H.R. 1551: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 1570: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 1597: Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. KILDEE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. HECK, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 1605: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 1609: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 1679: Ms. HILL of California and Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 1695: Mr. RYAN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 1707: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 1727: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1733: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1754: Mr. HARRIS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 1766: Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 1773: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 1786: Mr. SIRES, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. ROSE of New York.
H.R. 1830: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 1832: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 1858: Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1863: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 1865: Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. ROSE of New York.
H.R. 1869: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 1873: Ms. STEVENS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1878: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1948: Ms. TITUS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 1964: Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 1968: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 1978: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 1980: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.
H.R. 1982: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 2093: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 2111: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 2124: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 2146: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2148: Mr. HECK and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 2149: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 2150: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 2153: Mr. KATKO and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2156: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 2166: Mr. RESCHENTHALER and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 2168: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2184: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 2199: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 2207: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 2213: Mr. CISNEROS and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 2214: Ms. ESCOBAR and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 2218: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 2219: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
H.R. 2231: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 2245: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SOTO, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 2258: Mr. HAGEDORN and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2312: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 2315: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 2349: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2381: Mr. STEWART and Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 2406: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 2417: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2420: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. KIM, and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 2435: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. STEWART, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2441: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 2468: Mr. SERRANO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2482: Mr. NADLER and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 2483: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 2486: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2491: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2593: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2594: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2648: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 2694: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2702: Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2708: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2732: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 2734: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 2746: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2749: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2771: Mr. GALLAGHER.
H.R. 2775: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2781: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 2782: Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 2785: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 2818: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2825: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2829: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2836: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2846: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2862: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 2867: Mr. TONKO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RYAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 2902: Mr. SOTO and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2903: Mr. GALLAGHER and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2905: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2933: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2970: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2975: Mr. ROSE of New York.
H.R. 2980: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2986: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 3006: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H.R. 3036: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 3062: Mr. DUNN and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 3073: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 3106: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 3110: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 3119: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3125: Mr. LONG and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 3182: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. FLORES, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 3208: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 3219: Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3222: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3249: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3274: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 3289: Mr. POCAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 3297: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 3369: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 3406: Mr. SIRES and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3427: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3444: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3446: Mr. DELGADO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 3452: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 3463: Mr. SARBANES, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. KIND, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. VELA.
H.R. 3479: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 3497: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. REED, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3503: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3519: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3520: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 3522: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 3524: Mr. COSTA and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3555: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 3575: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 3584: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. WELCH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. BUDD.
H.R. 3593: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3619: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 3626: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 3632: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 3654: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. COMER.
H.R. 3668: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 3706: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3740: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3742: Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 3744: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3749: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 3757: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 3758: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 3778: Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 3779: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 3797: Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CORREA, and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 3798: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3801: Mr. KIND and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 3818: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 3870: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3876: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3882: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 3884: Mr. LUJÁN and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3896: Mr. BROWN of Maryland and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 3934: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.
H.R. 3957: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 3960: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3961: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3969: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 3975: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 4006: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4007: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4009: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 4029: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. WEXTON.
H.R. 4065: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 4077: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 4092: Mr. CASE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 4098: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 4101: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4127: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 4129: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4138: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 4143: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 4193: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. ROUDA, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 4200: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BUCK, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 4203: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4206: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 4228: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 4230: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 4236: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 4249: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 4255: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4270: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 4272: Mr. NADLER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DEAN, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 4276: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 4278: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 4285: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4292: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4294: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4296: Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4298: Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 4301: Mr. TRONE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 4309: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ROUDA, and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 4324: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 4327: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. TONKO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 4339: Ms. TLAIB and Ms. MOORE.
H.J. Res. 52: Mr. MEADOWS.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H. Con. Res. 58: Mr. HARRIS.
H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. CISNEROS.
H. Res. 17: Mr. VELA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 23: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma and Ms. STEVENS.
H. Res. 33: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Ms. STEVENS.
H. Res. 54: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma and Ms. STEVENS.
H. Res. 114: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WALTZ, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H. Res. 138: Mr. LAMB.
H. Res. 146: Ms. PRESSLEY and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H. Res. 189: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HECK, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H. Res. 230: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H. Res. 242: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H. Res. 255: Mr. CISNEROS and Mr. STEIL.
H. Res. 299: Mr. SARBANES.
H. Res. 323: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. HARRIS.
H. Res. 326: Mr. RYAN.
H. Res. 399: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H. Res. 452: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. TAKANO.
H. Res. 469: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H. Res. 493: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WALKER, and Mr. FLORES.
H. Res. 517: Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. BERA.
H. Res. 539: Mr. RASKIN.
H. Res. 542: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BACON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 543: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. HURD of Texas.
H. Res. 546: Mr. ROUDA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MALINOWSKI, and Ms. KAPTUR.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 132: Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 4297: Mr. PETERSON.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 No. 149

Senate

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.

Almighty God, our fortress and might, deliver us from clouds of pessimism and fear. Lead our lawmakers in these challenging times, fulfilling Your purposes through them. Be exalted, O God, above the highest heaven, as You demonstrate Your power to make the crooked places straight.

Have mercy upon us and protect us, for Your unfailing love and faithfulness sustain us. Shine Your glory over all the Earth as we learn to trust You at all times.

And, Lord, we thank You that Senator GRASSLEY has had another wonderful birthday.

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 speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

CONSTITUTION DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Since the day I was born, I have celebrated Constitution Day. That is because the 39 delegates signed the U.S. Constitution on September 17, which is exactly 146 years before I was born. It is a gift to share my birthday with the historic signing of our Nation's founding charter.

The Constitution lends weight to the resilience of our heritage and to the heroes who fought to defend and protect our borders at home and from distant shores around the world.

On this Constitution Day, it is my hope that Americans of all ages will reflect upon the blessings of freedom handed down from one generation to the next and protected by the U.S. Constitution.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. The American people deserve for the Federal Government to spend their money in a considered, deliberate fashion, and until very recently, we have been on a track to conduct a smooth, regular appropriations process for this year.

More than a month ago, leaders in both parties, in both Chambers, and at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue all agreed to terms that had been negotiated by the Speaker of the House and the President's team. It specified topline funding levels and put guardrails around the appropriations process to keep out poison pills and all of our other disagreements.

So yesterday, to keep us on track, I began the process to advance the first set of appropriations bills. The next step is a vote tomorrow to begin consideration of a package of House-passed funding bills that Speaker PELOSI grouped together. They include several of the domestic funding bills along with the legislation to fund the Department of Defense. There should be no reason for Democrats to vote against this first procedural step.

As Chairman SHELBY and our committee colleagues continue to process Senate legislation, proceeding to this floor action will help to keep us on track toward passing as many of the 12 bills as possible this month before we turn to a temporary continuing resolution.

So it has been distressing to hear troubling signals from the Democratic side. We have heard that they may choose to filibuster the Defense funding bill. They may block the very increase of defense funding that they all just agreed to a month ago.

Progress on our shared priorities, good faith cooperation in areas of disagreement—it seems all of this may be taking a backseat to a familiar litany of partisan stumbling blocks. My Democratic colleagues seem eager to bog down the funding process with all their outstanding disagreements with the President, in other words, taking exactly the kind of partisan approach we had successfully avoided last year and in which both sides pledged just last month—just a month ago—to avoid this time as well.

A couple of weeks ago, everyone at the table seemed to understand that the world was too dangerous to leave funding for our military vulnerable to poison pill riders or political copouts. I wish Democrats would keep bearing that in mind today.

So whatever rationale my colleagues across the aisle may offer for these new disruptions, let's get one thing straight: Holding defense funding hostage for political gain is a losing strategy, not only for Members of this body, not only for the appropriations process, but a losing strategy for the safety and strength of our Nation.

As partisanship bogs us down here in Washington, Moscow and Beijing are not exactly slowing down to wait for us. Our two most capable great-power adversaries are expanding their own capabilities and modernizing their forces by the day.

In the current international system, delivering on our promises to America's men and women in uniform is not

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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a simple matter of routine maintenance on equipment. If we would like the U.S. military of the future to remain the world's preeminent fighting force, then, the stakes are much higher. As Russia rattles its saber and develops weapons such as hypersonic cruise missiles and quiet submarines, we need to continue funding for research and development of our own cutting-edge capabilities.

We have to provide for the modernization of infrastructure and update defenses against cyber threats so that China's ever-bolder meddling in this domain cannot bring about the cyber hegemony it craves. We cannot turn our back on our interests and partners in the broader Middle East. In Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, and beyond, we face ongoing terrorist threats. Iran's violent aggression certainly highlights the need for vigilance and for strength. All of this is needlessly more difficult if we don't fund the military's modernization and readiness. The stakes are too high for us to fail.

We cannot afford to abdicate our responsibility to deliver timely funding to the critical priorities of the Federal Government, least of all to the men and women in uniform who keep us safe. So I would urge each of my colleagues to engage in this process, honor our agreement that we made just 1 month ago—just a month ago—and keep us on track to deliver for our country.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Rakolta, Jr., of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as negotiations continue on a continuing resolution to keep the government open past next week, we should be laying the groundwork to process the 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2020.

In an ideal world, the Republicans on the Appropriations Committee would be negotiating in good faith with the Democrats on the Appropriations Committee to determine the allocations and the content of those bills, but the Republicans, unfortunately, have not chosen to do this. They are acting in a totally partisan way. The Republicans have chosen to back the President's demand for an additional $12 billion in funding for his border wall, taken from other sources, including medical research, opioid treatment, and funding intended for our military, their families, and their kids. Mexico, oddly, isn't chipping in a penny.

This was all done totally on the Republican side with there having been no consultation of the Democrats and, certainly, no buy-in. So, of course, the Democrats oppose taking funds from Congress to use on the President's border wall that have been intended for our military. Everyone knows that. In fact, 12 Senate Republicans opposed the very same thing this year, but in typical Washington, blame-game fashion, Republican leader MITCH MCCONNELL has been accusing the Democrats of threatening to block military funding because we don't want to pass a bill that steals money from the military. That is right. The Democrats are the ones threatening not to vote for this bill because we oppose a Republican bill that would shortchange the military.

I have heard some howlers in my day, but that is pretty rich, what MCCONNELL is saying.

Leader MCCONNELL constantly talks about stunts. He doesn't like stunts because they won't be signed or passed into law. This is a stunt if I have ever seen one, that of putting this bill—$12 billion more for the wall and with no buy-in by the Democrats—to a vote. It will lose. We know it will lose.

What is the point, Leader MCCONNELL? You say you don't like stunts. You say you don't want to bring bills to the floor that won't become law. Well, this one certainly won't.

The fact is the Republican leader knows well that the Democrats oppose taking funding away from our troops to use on the President's wall. He knows that Members of his own caucus oppose taking money out of their States to spend on the President's border wall. Some have been quite vocal; yet Leader MCCONNELL is moving forward with the bill all the same, knowing that it lacks votes.

For him to say the Democrats are the ones threatening to block military funding when, in fact, we oppose a Republican bill that would shortchange the military is the height of double talk by the Republican leader.

Again, the Republican leader is fond of reminding the press that he doesn't like to engage in stunts—that the Senate is for making laws and is not a forum for political theater. Yet putting this bill on the floor of the Senate that everyone knows lacks the votes is the definition of a stunt.

Leader MCCONNELL—and I mean this with all due respect—it is time to negotiate. Both sides must sit down and have a serious negotiation—no stunts, no blame game. The Democrats want to work with our Republican colleagues, but we need a willing partner, and time is quickly running out to get a bipartisan appropriations process back on track.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Madam President, now, on guns, a week and a half after our return from the August work period, Senators from both sides of the aisle are still waiting to hear what the President proposes in order to combat the epidemic of gun violence. According to reports, the President's yet-to-be-released plan will likely not include universal background checks or even a significant expansion of background checks. If those reports are true, it will be a profound shame.

Without closing the loopholes in our background check system, most other gun safety measures, like emergency risk protection orders, would be severely compromised. Background checks must be the base, the foundation, of gun safety legislation. If background checks aren't included, we will still be allowing guns to fall into the wrong hands—those of convicted criminals, domestic abusers, the adjudicated mentally ill.

You can have one of these emergency risk protection orders issued to someone—let's say to Mr. John Smith. Yet, if we don't close these loopholes, John Smith, the next day, will be able to go online and get a new gun because there will be no background check, and the seller of the gun will have no way of knowing there will have been a protection order against him. Without having background checks, a lot of this other stuff isn't going to do the job. It isn't going to save the most lives that we can.

I hope the President thinks long and hard before releasing a proposal that falls short of making meaningful progress, particularly on background checks.

In the past, Republican Senators, Congressmen, and candidates promised action after mass shootings, only to have announced support for legislation that was specifically designed not to offend the NRA. We have seen that before.

This is a chance for the President to do something different and, frankly, something courageous. It would be a terrible shame if he were to squander that very much needed opportunity. If

whatever the President announces this week falls short of what the American people are demanding, the Democrats will continue to press the issue.

Later tonight, I will join several of my Democratic colleagues on the floor for an extended debate on the issue of gun violence. Many of my colleagues have seen their communities torn apart by gun violence—some by horrific mass shootings, others by a relentless, daily stream. Many of them have worked for years to put commonsense gun safety measures before the Senate. Tonight, the Democrats will hold a forum to bring those stories to the Senate floor—the stories of families who have been shattered by gun violence and the stories of our constituents who demand that we take action.

My Republican colleagues, I hope, will listen closely and, more importantly, will join the Democrats in working to pass meaningful legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I spent a lot of time talking to South Dakota farmers over the August break, and I can tell you that if there is one thing on farmers' minds right now, it is trade; it is markets; it is having a place to sell the things that we raise and grow. Farmers and ranchers have had a rough few years. Low commodity prices and low livestock prices, natural disasters, and protracted trade disputes have left our agricultural economy trailing behind our economy as a whole.

As farmers emphasized to me during August, one of the biggest things we can do to help our agricultural economy is to implement trade agreements that benefit American farmers and ranchers. The United States is currently involved in trade negotiations on multiple fronts—with the European Union, with China, with Japan, and with other Asian-Pacific countries.

Like many farmers and ranchers, I support the President's goal of addressing trade imbalances and securing more favorable conditions for American products abroad, but we need to conclude these agreements as soon as possible. The longer negotiations drag on, the tougher the situation for farmers, who face retaliatory tariffs as well as a lot of uncertainty about what markets are going to look like.

We have had some recent successes. In August, the administration announced a deal to increase U.S. beef sales to Europe. In May, the administration announced a deal with Japan to remove all remaining age restrictions on U.S. beef, giving American ranchers full access to the Japanese market for the first time in more than a decade. Yet that is just a tiny fraction of what needs to get done on the trade front when it comes to agriculture.

Every time I speak with the President and his administration, I emphasize what South Dakota farmers have told me: We need to conclude negotiations on the various trade deals that we are working on, and we need to do it now. We need to open new markets, expand existing ones, and give farmers and ranchers certainty about what those markets are going to look like.

While we are still in negotiations on a number of agreements, one deal that we don't need to wait for is the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement. This agreement has already been fully negotiated by our three countries, and Congress can take it up at any point.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement is a clear and significant win for our farmers and ranchers. Canada and Mexico are the No. 1 and No. 2 export markets for American food and agricultural products. This agreement will preserve and expand farmers' access to these critical markets and will give farmers certainty about what these markets will look like in the long term.

I am particularly pleased with the improvements the agreement makes for U.S. dairy producers. South Dakota has experienced a massive dairy expansion over the past few years, and this agreement will benefit U.S. dairy producers by substantially expanding market access in Canada, which is where U.S. dairy sales have been restricted. The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that the agreement will boost U.S. dairy exports by more than $277 million. The agreement 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.

Of course, while I have been talking a lot about farmers, the benefits of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will not be limited to the agricultural industry. Virtually every sector of our economy will benefit from this agreement—from manufacturing to digital services, to the automotive industry. It will create 176,000 new U.S. jobs, will grow our economy, and will raise wages for workers.

The Republicans in the Senate are ready to consider the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. We are just waiting for the House Democrats to stop threatening to oppose the agreement and to show a willingness to put it to an up-or-down vote in the House of Representatives.

The administration has made addressing the Democrats' concerns a priority throughout the negotiation process, and it seems to me that if you are a Democrat who is unhappy with the status quo, voting for the USMCA is the best way to fix it.

I am encouraged by the fact that the Democrats appear to be working with the administration to reach a resolution on this agreement, and I hope they will continue to work with the White House to bring this agreement to a vote as soon as possible in the House of Representatives. America's farmers and ranchers need the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. While it won't be a cure-all for all of the problems that are facing farm country, it will be a significant step forward.

Congress should pass this agreement as soon as possible and allow farmers and ranchers and the rest of the American economy to start realizing the benefits.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

REMEMBERING MARCA BRISTO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the disability rights movement is one of the great civil rights achievements of our time, and Chicago's Marca Bristo was that movement's Rosa Parks.

Marca was a visionary and inspiring leader, who helped change Chicago and change the world when it came to the rights of the disabled, and she was my friend.

Sadly, Marca died last week in her adopted hometown of Chicago at 66 years of age.

In typical Marca style, she worked right on up to the few days before her death, trying to bend the arc of history just a little more toward justice before she drew her last breath.

I was happy to join my colleague Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH this week in sponsoring a resolution honoring Marca's life and work.

I would like to take a few moments on the floor today to remember this amazing woman.

While most Americans have never heard of Marca Bristo, few lives went untouched by her lifelong quest on behalf of people with disabilities. She was a nationally and internationally acclaimed leader in the disability rights movement.

She helped to write and to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, which outlawed discrimination against the estimated one in four Americans with disabilities, and she spent the rest of her life making sure the ADA was faithfully implemented.

Along with leaders like Justin Dart, Marca changed the way Americans thought about disabilities. She persuaded us to view the disability experience as a civil rights issue, not just a medical issue.

To Marca's mind, what kept many people with disabilities from leading full lives was not their disability but the barriers they faced. What needed to change, she said, was not the person with disabilities but those obstacles that blocked their path. The problem was not that her wheelchair was too wide for certain doors; the problem was the doors were too narrow for her wheelchair. Remove the barriers, and people with disabilities can lead rich and full lives and make enormous contributions. That is part of what Marca taught me.

She was tough, smart, funny, determined, and fearless. She knew how to motivate others and how to build coalitions.

Her parents actually named her Marcia, but during her freshman year in college, a classmate called her Marca. She liked it, and it stuck.

She moved to Chicago and earned a nursing degree from Rush University College of Nursing in 1976.

In 1977, when Marca was 23 years old, working as a labor-delivery nurse at a Chicago hospital, she and her friend were sitting on the shore of Lake Michigan, when a dog grabbed her favorite pair of sandals and ran into the water with them. Marca dove in to retrieve her shoes, not realizing the water was shallow. She broke her neck and was paralyzed from the waist down for the rest of her life.

Because of her paralysis, she lost her job, her health insurance, her home, her car, and the ability to navigate the city she loved. She thought she would never work again, but luckily the director of Northwestern University's Prentice Women's Hospital thought otherwise and convinced her to return to nursing.

At one point, she attended a work conference in San Francisco and saw for the first time an abundance of curb cuts—curb cuts that enabled people with disabilities to cross the street. It was an eye-opener for Marca.

As she later wrote:

> No longer did I see curbs or stairs or inaccessible buses and bathrooms as a problem around which I needed to navigate. Rather, I saw them as examples of societal discrimination—and felt a responsibility to get involved to help people with disabilities, in Illinois and beyond.

In 1980, Marca founded Access Living in Chicago, a nonprofit dedicated to helping people with disabilities live as independently as possible rather than warehoused in institutions.

Access Living led the fight to make public transportation in Chicago more accessible. Marca was not a shrinking violet. In 1984, she joined others, chaining themselves to Chicago Transit Authority buses. She ended up getting arrested, and they ended up filing a lawsuit in reply against the transit agency.

Her determination led to the installation of wheelchair lifts and critical changes to CTA buses and rail stations. Access Living became a disability leadership model for other cities around the country and around the world.

In 1992, Marca cofounded the National Council on Independent Living, which she led for many years.

In 1993, President Clinton named her to head the National Council on Disability. She was the first person with a disability ever to hold that post, and she held it until 2002.

She was elected president of the U.S. International Council on Disabilities and traveled around the world advocating for people with disabilities and their families.

She participated in the negotiation for the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a global accord based on the Americans with Disabilities Act. More than 160 nations have signed that treaty, including the United States. Sadly, this Senate has failed to ratify that treaty. I worked hours and hours with Marca to try to win the votes in the Senate for this bipartisan measure to help people with disabilities. We even brought former U.S. Senator Bob Dole, a World War II hero and a father of the ADA, to sit on the floor of the Senate when we cast the votes on this treaty. Unfortunately, it did not pass.

Marca called July 26, 1990, the day President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, ''Our Independence Day.''

On that day, she said:

> This ragtag army of people who couldn't see, hear, walk and talk did what everyone said couldn't be done. We passed the most comprehensive civil rights law since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

In a 2015 video interview for Rush University Medical Center, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Marca said: ''The law for the first time enshrined in federal law that disability is a normal part of the human condition, and the world needed to change.''

In July 2017, days before another ADA anniversary, Marca was again fighting for justice. She was 1 of more than 60 who were arrested for protesting against the proposed deep cuts in the Medicaid Program that had been included in a Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

As the Capitol Police wheeled her away, Marca raised a clenched fist and smiled. That is how I am going to remember her: optimistic, determined, even against long odds.

Days after her arrest, another American hero with a disability, John McCain, came to this floor and in the well of this Senate, shocked his party and the Nation by becoming the deciding vote against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. I like to think my colleague from Arizona, John McCain, saw in Marca Bristo and her determined friends the same courage he had witnessed so often in our military.

My wife Loretta and I extend our condolences to Marca's husband of 32 years, Bob Kettlewell; their two children, Samuel and Madeline; her granddaughter, who was born in June; to Marca's sister Gail; and to her countless friends and colleagues.

Marca made the lives of hundreds of millions of people better. I am going to miss her warm smile, her wise advice, her vision, and her courage.

EMERGENCY FUNDING

Madam President, I rise in opposition today to President Trump's continued efforts to move funding from our military in order to build his beloved wall on our southern border, and I rise as well in defense of the powers given to Congress in article I of the Constitution.

Last week, the President announced he was taking $3.6 billion from America's military to build his wall. He did so by canceling 127 military construction projects around the world and in 26 States and territories. Already, President Trump had taken $2.5 billion from our military earlier this year. Last week's decision brings the total to over $6 billion—$6 billion of investments in our American military and national security that the President of the United States has diverted so he can have a bragging point in the reelection campaign about his beloved wall.

This decision has rippled across the country and the world.

Remember the terrible damage Hurricane Maria did in Puerto Rico, which is still being repaired? Our military prioritized $400 million to rebuild National Guard facilities and the school for military children there. With the stroke of a pen, and without the approval of Congress, the President took away these funds.

Joint Base Andrews in Maryland needed a new childcare facility for military families. Some of the rooms in that current facility have been closed due to mold, which has created overcrowding. There are 130 children on a waiting list to get into this facility. Their parents are paying for expensive off-base childcare. It is unacceptable.

So Congress, on behalf of these military families at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, approved the money to upgrade the childcare center. Once again, with the stroke of a pen, President Trump took the military family childcare funds for his almighty wall.

Military children at Fort Campbell, KY, the home State of the Republican majority leader of the Senate, are forced to use overcrowded classrooms and a cafeteria so small that students are often shipped off to the library to eat.

With the same stroke of a pen, $62 million that Congress authorized for Senator MCCONNELL's home State of Kentucky to fix the problem are gone, headed to the border of the United States for the President to be able to boast at a rally.

As if these stories weren't troubling enough, the Air Force is also sounding the alarm. A leaked internal review by the Air Force warns that President Trump's decision to cancel 51 Air Force projects poses serious national security risks to our country.

Imagine if the shoe were on the other foot and the President were a member of my party, the Democratic Party. What would we be hearing from the Republican side of the aisle?

One of the projects that has been canceled for the Air Force by the President's effort to divert military funds to his wall is Incirlik Air Base in Turkey. They needed an upgrade for security on their main gate. The Air Force says that without this project, the base is ''vulnerable to hostile penetration in the midst of contingency operations and an increased terrorist threat.''

For goodness' sake. The President is building a wall in the middle of a desert that is not solving the problem

we face with our southern border and taking money away from the main gate of an Air Force Base in Turkey that has been identified as needing to be rebuilt for security against terrorism?

The report also describes how canceling upgrades to a munitions site at an air base in Guam may impact the ability of fighter and bomber aircraft to operate properly.

I ask my colleagues honestly: Are these risks worth taking from our military so the President can have a walk-off line at one of his political rallies?

U.S. allies across the globe that are committed to our defense are starting to doubt if this White House is still interested in being the leader of the free world.

U.S. troops based in NATO ally countries like Poland, Italy, Germany, and Estonia expected $770 million in investments in training center and logistical support to push back on Russian aggression in Europe. I can tell you, having visited the Baltic States, how critically important these funds are to remind the people of that region that the United States and NATO allies still stand solidly behind them, as Putin threatens them with aggression on a daily basis, and now President Trump has removed many of these funds. Similarly, U.S. troops in South Korea and Japan were planning on $670 million to protect them from threats from North Korea and China.

The cancellation of all these projects is based on a national emergency declared by the President that was rejected by both Houses of Congress in bipartisan votes. Congress should not be silent when anyone dismisses the real needs of our men and women in uniform for politics. Nor should it sit back when the President of any party tries to undermine its constitutional duty to provide for the common defense of the United States.

I am greatly concerned that these events set a precedent that undermines the Appropriations Committee, which I have dedicated my Senate career to.

We all remember President Donald Trump's idea that we need a 2,000-mile concrete wall, as he said, ''from sea to shining sea,'' paid for by Mexico. He said it 200 times when he campaigned for the Office of President, but as we have seen, Mexico hasn't put up a peso. The President has decided the American military should pay for it instead. The resulting damage to our military and to the Appropriations Committee's constitutional authority continues to accumulate.

It has to stop, and it can stop if my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can come together to reassert their obligations under the Constitution and provide our military families with the certainty that they haven't been forgotten in the midst of the runup to the 2020 campaign.

I hope all of us think long and hard about the importance of this decision and our obligation to stand behind our men and women in the military.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I want to get straight to the point this morning. I find it incomprehensible that some of our friends across the aisle are repeating the same missteps that turned last fall's Supreme Court confirmation battle into a black mark on the history of this body.

I want to make it clear that I have no desire to relitigate the disputes borne from Justice Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings. I do not want to hear my friends on the other side of the aisle leverage more of the same baseless, salacious allegations in the name of partisan politicking. But when you stop and think about it, since they have chosen to go there, it is imperative that I speak out—that we speak out—about what is transpiring.

I was not in the Senate for the first go-around on this, but I am here now, and I can tell you that I intend to give their arguments exactly the amount of deference and respect they deserve.

Sitting on the sidelines is never easy, but it is especially difficult when you are watching a fight and you know you could get in there and help win that fight. I know this feeling very well. Last fall, I was fighting to go from the House of Representatives to the Senate. I was also fighting to become the first female Senator from the great State of Tennessee—the very first.

While on the campaign trail, I got more than an earful from other Tennessee women who were watching this breathless coverage of Justice Kavanaugh's confirmation. These women were concerned that their voices were not being heard in this debate. They were concerned also for spouses, sons, brothers, and male colleagues. They could see these baseless claims, and they were concerned for the lack of due process. They did not like for 1 minute what they were seeing, and I didn't like it either.

These women came from all political walks of life and all areas of our State. They were disgusted by the nature of the sexual assault allegations, and they were horrified by what they rightly saw as an eagerness to set aside the due process that is so important to this Nation and to the rule of law. It was being set aside in order to make an example out of Kavanaugh.

Were flimsy allegations and social justice buzzwords really the new standard for credibility?

As much as I wanted to reassure these women that sanity would prevail, in the back of my mind I remained fully aware that, if left unchecked, insanity is fully capable of carrying the day. It knows no bounds.

As it turns out, conservatism prevailed in Tennessee, and sanity prevailed in the U.S. Senate. I was humbled when Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh performed my ceremonial swearing-in this past January and when I received the additional honor of being one of two Republican women afforded a seat on the Senate Judiciary Committee—humbled, truly humbled, but also prepared to stand up for what I know is right.

I will not abide by or participate in the lack of civility that we saw during Justice Kavanaugh's confirmation. We have to realize that this is more serious than just evaluating a final tally of political points on the board. Politicians, journalists, and activists are leveraging unfounded criminal allegations against a duly confirmed Supreme Court justice. I repeat that: They are leveraging unfounded criminal allegations against a duly confirmed Supreme Court justice in an effort to undermine not only his work but ultimately the entire Court as an institution.

Is this honestly what we have come to? Is this the new low of lows? Can no one see the danger in doing this and letting it continue and giving it air to breathe or to thrive? This is a danger. We are a nation of laws, and the Senate is a body built on process and deliberation.

Tennesseans are asking: Who is going to stand and who is going to defend that process in this body?

As a woman, as a new Senator and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I stand to defend the process and for civility. I refuse to leave this political chaos unchecked, and I welcome my colleagues and my friends across the aisle to join me in recognizing that due process and civil discourse are required for constructive, respectful debate.

I yield the floor.

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

TARIFFS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, we all returned to Washington last week after, in my case, spending 5 weeks in the State of Montana. It is always great being in Montana, being able to get around the State and visit with folks and see the challenges they are dealing with on a daily basis and hear directly from them.

I can tell you that one of the things I heard a lot about—Montana is an ag State—was the price of grain and the price of cattle. The marketplace is very, very depressed. It doesn't matter that Montana is a big State, and it doesn't matter what corner of the State you are in. We have some challenges, and those challenges have been brought about by really, really bad public policy when it comes to tariffs. These tariffs have increased the price of steel, for example, which increases the price of the equipment that folks in agriculture and everybody have to buy.

On the other side of the coin, because of the tariffs that are put on ag commodities, it has driven all ag commodities down. The tariffs on soy, for example, have driven all the commodities down, including wheat, which we raise

a lot of in Montana, but also pulse crops and everything.

In fact, when I was determining what we were going to plant this spring, I was trying to find what we could make money off of. Quite frankly, commodity prices are down across the board, and there wasn't anything that you could turn a profit on. I don't say that being a farmer who wants to complain about prices, because we do that occasionally. I say that because the price of hard red ordinary winter wheat, which probably doesn't mean much to anybody unless you are in agriculture, is about the same price it was in about May of 1978, when I took the farm over. That is not inflation-adjusted prices. That is what it is selling for, a little over $3.50 a bushel.

If you take a look back at 1978, it doesn't take a nuclear physicist to figure out that things cost a little less back then. You could buy a car for probably about 15 percent of what you are paying for one now, and farm equipment was the same way. It was far, far, far less expensive. My dad bought a brand-new four-wheel drive tractor, for example, 3 years earlier, in 1975. He paid about $20,000 for it, and today that tractor would run you north of $200,000.

So we have a lot of challenges out there, and it all starts with the price of ag commodities. It isn't like Mother Nature frowned on us all and put us into a drought or put a hailstorm on us or put locusts on us. It is all manmade.

I think most people in this body would tell you that, as to what is going on with China right now, even though China does need to be held accountable, we can't do it alone. We have to bring our allies in. That is why it is not working, and that is why ag commodity prices are in the tank.

So why should anybody care if you are not involved in agriculture?

There was an old bumper sticker that was on cars a few decades ago that said: If you eat, you are involved in agriculture. That is a fact. If you want to talk about things like food security and being able to have food on the shelves, those family farmers are critically important. If you force them out of business, that is more consolidation, that is less people living in rural America, and that is a problem, and it is less certainty with our food supply.

We feed the world for a good reason—because there are a lot of family farmers out there who work very, very hard each and every day, and we overproduce, and the overproduced items need to be exported. If they are not, the prices go down. That is what we see right now. We see overproduction, because we produce food, and if that food is not exported, the prices go down, and they go down and they go down. Now they are prices that we had 40 years ago.

Now, this administration's solution for this problem is to borrow money from our kids and write farmers checks. I don't know a farmer out there who wants to go down to the local FSA, or the Farm Service Agency, government office and get a check. We do it, but that is not the preferred place. The preferred place is from the grain elevator or from the livestock auction. But because prices are so low, now farmers have to have a bailout.

People talk about socialism and who is advocating for socialism around here, but the fact is that this is pretty much socialistic. The sad part is that the amount farmers are getting is probably about a tenth, once again, of what they are losing in the marketplace, if we had trade, if we were out promoting trade, and if we were moving the ball forward to get rid of the excess production. But instead, it is tariff after tariff after tariff because we are trying to teach somebody a lesson. Unfortunately, because we don't have our allies onboard with us, we haven't seen much success.

We have a problem. The forefathers set forth three coequal branches of government. Unfortunately, I have been a bit frustrated because the legislative branch hasn't been able to do much about these tariffs, and we need to reinsert ourselves.

I have a bill that I intend to drop in very soon that will empower the legislative branch. Hopefully, we can get it through committee and get it to the floor. It seems that we always ask permission of the administration as to whether we are going to take up any bills on the floor in this body, the greatest deliberative body—it used to be; it is not anymore—when, in fact, we need to take back the power. We need to hold the administration, the executive branch—whether there is a Democrat in the White House or a Republican in the White House—accountable on these issues that revolve around trade.

It is important because we are having a debate right now about whether we should be just a rubberstamp for the executive branch on appropriations. We have given away our power on trade. It is our job to deal with issues of trade. I am talking about Congress's job. I have a bill to bring back some of that power.

I will tell you, I hope that tomorrow all these tariffs and trade issues go away. I don't think that is realistic. In fact, I think we have seen a lot of our foreign trading partners that were traditionally our partners turn to other countries to get their products. I think that is a problem long term and certainly a problem short term because we are feeling it in the short term. When they start getting their ag commodities from Australia and Argentina or some other country, it is hard to get those customers back, even when the trade agreements have been ratified.

I ask the executive branch to quit playing games with American agriculture. I know that most of the farmers support the Trump administration, but I am telling you, we saw a mass exodus off the farms in the 1980s—the family farm agriculture—because of bad policies, due in part to this town, and I am afraid we are going to see that again. I have already seen it in my neighborhood, and I think it is just the start.

It is time that we start to do what we do; that is, we need to export some of this product.

The Farmers Union was in last week, and one of the people in the Farmers Union, from the Montana group, said: What do we do about the excess supply? Well, what we do with the excess supply is what we have always done with the excess supply: We ship it out. We export it. And when those exports dry up, we have wheat. We can't get rid of soy. Corn is in a pinch. As I said earlier, all ag commodities are depressed.

While we sit here and talk about the important stuff that we talk about, just know that the American farmer, the family farmer, is hurting. I will tell you that one thing that made this country great is family farm agriculture. If it gets consolidated, whether it is a family who owns tens of thousands of acres or controls tens of thousands of acres or whether it is a corporation, it is the same thing. You have nobody living in rural America, and it impacts our food security in this country. Quite frankly, it is very bad for democracy.

I invited the President to come to Montana to visit with the producers so he could hear it from their mouths. I haven't gotten a response. The bottom line is, he needs to know that rural America is not New York City. It has challenges, and if we don't do our job and get products exported, we are going to see it change, we are going to see it dry up, and we are literally going to see it blow away. It is not a step forward. It is not making this country great. In fact, it is exactly the opposite.

I hope the President comes to Montana. I hope he visits with the producers. He will find a friendly crowd. I think most of them voted for him. He will be able to hear from the horse's mouth what is happening with trade and hopefully get these trade tariffs and all the things around trade that have been negative for family farm agriculture put behind us. I think time is of the essence. It may be too late for a lot of folks. We may see a lot of good operators no longer able to make a living in agriculture. Time is of the essence.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TAXES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk a little bit today about something I am embarrassed about on behalf of the Federal Government. Before I explain why I am embarrassed on behalf of my government, I need to give a little background.

Did you ever stop and think about how much we pay in taxes in this country? We have city taxes. We have county taxes. In Louisiana, we call our counties parishes, so we have parish taxes. We have State taxes. We have fees at all of those levels. Sometimes politicians will try to call a hand in your pocket a fee as opposed to a tax, like you are going to be dumb enough to think that makes a difference. It is still money out of your pocket. And then we have Federal taxes. The government taxes the food we eat, the clothes we buy, the houses we live in, the cars we drive. The government taxes when we work and when we play. If you want to go fishing, you have to pay a tax. If you want to go hunting, you have to pay a tax. The government even taxes us when we die.

Let me talk about the Federal taxes for a second. This is just a fraction of the money people pay. At the Federal level, our main tax is income taxes—corporate income tax, personal income tax. Do you know how much we pay every year—the American people—in corporate and personal income tax? I am going to show you. I am going to write it out because it is impressive. Do you see all those zeros? There are 12 zeros—$2 trillion every year. Do you know how much $2 trillion is? That is $2,000 billion. Do you know how much a billion is? If right now I started counting to a billion, do you know when I would finish? It would take me 32 years. I would finish in 2051. I wouldn't make it; I will be dead by then.

I will tell you how big a billion is. A billion seconds ago, it was 1986 and Ronald Reagan was President. That is how big a billion is. A billion minutes ago, the Romans were conquering Mesopotamia. A billion hours ago, Neanderthals roamed the Earth. That is 1 billion. The American people pay $2,000 billion in taxes every year—not State and not local; Federal corporate and personal income taxes.

Now, look, we know that as a result of the social contract we have made among ourselves, we are better off living and working together and pooling our money so we can hire cops and build roads and educate our children. We know that is the price to pay in a civilized society, but that is still a lot of money.

Now, I don't know about you, but I get mad when some people cheat—when all people whom I know of cheat on their taxes. That means that law-abiding citizens have to pay more to make up for those who cheat.

Do you know what else makes me mad? What also makes me mad is when the Federal entity to which we pay these taxes has money of ours and they don't return it. I am not talking about tax refunds. I am talking about something else, and that is going to be the subject of my talk for a few minutes today.

Now, look, the Internal Revenue Service, which is housed, as you know, in the Department of Treasury—they are very aggressive. Oh Lord, you better pay your taxes. If you don't pay your taxes, they are on you like a hobo on a ham sandwich. They will chase you like a hound from Hades. You better pay them the right amount, and you better pay them on time. Most Americans don't like that but are OK with it because they know we have to run government, we have to defend our country, and we have to educate our kids. But what happens when the Department of Treasury, which houses the Internal Revenue Service, owes money to the American people and refuses to give it back? That is what embarrasses me, and that is what makes me angry.

Right now, our U.S. Department of Treasury is holding $26 billion—remember I told you how big a billion is—it owes to the American people in unclaimed, matured savings bonds. And you know what a savings bond is. That is a loan by an American citizen to our government. We funded World War II in part through savings bonds.

This is how a savings bond works. It is very simple. Let's suppose I go buy a $100 savings bond. I give $100 to the U.S. Department of Treasury, which collects $2 trillion through IRS. I give $100 to the Department of Treasury. It is a loan. The Treasury takes that $100 and promises to give me in, say, 20 years, $200 back. I don't get annual interest payments. There are some exceptions to that. In the old days, I got a paper bond. Today, it is all done electronically. I loan the Federal Government $100. I wait 20 years, and interest accrues. I don't get the checks. In 2 years, I go down with my savings bond, and I say: OK, I want my $200.

But sometimes people forget. They put those bonds in a safe deposit box or—today, we don't use paper bonds; we do it electronically. People will forget. In the old days when we used paper bonds, sometimes they would lose those bonds. A lot of times, as a birthday present, grandparents would give a bond to their grandchildren, give them a $100 bond, and they would say to their son or grandson or granddaughter: Hold on to this bond, and in 20 years, you will have $200. Of course, sometimes the young people would lose them. They are not really completely lost. The bond might have been lost—the physical bond—in the days when we used paper bonds.

The people who loaned the money to the Federal Government might have forgotten about the bonds, but do you know who knows about the bonds? The U.S. Department of Treasury, because they have the names and the addresses. Right now, they have the names and addresses, and they have the money—$26 billion—that they are holding that belongs to the American people, and they won't give it back.

I used to be a State treasurer in Louisiana. I and some my colleagues sued the Federal Department of Treasury. Do you know why we sued them? Because as State treasurers, we have programs called unclaimed property programs—you might have heard about them—where we would return money to people in our States that we would take in from businesses that owed people money but couldn't find the people.

Let's suppose you go rent an apartment back in your home State. You put down a utility deposit, and you move and you don't get back your utility deposit. You forget about it. The utility can't keep that deposit. They are supposed to look for you, but they can't find you. They can't keep that money. It doesn't belong to them. It is a deposit. They have to turn it over to the State treasurer.

The State treasurers of every State work very hard to contact the people and to give them back their utility deposits. Every day, State treasurers return utility deposits, apartment deposits, uncashed payroll checks, lost stocks, lost bonds, and tax refunds. Every State treasurer is very active. They have the infrastructure set up, they have websites, they have computers, and they return this money to people every day. When a business has your money and can't find you, they can't keep it; they have to turn it over to the State treasurer.

So the treasurers sued the U.S. Department of Treasury and said: We have these unclaimed property programs. Give us the names and addresses of these people to whom the Treasury Department owes $26 billion, and we will give it back to people.

Do you know what the Department of Treasury said? Nothing. Not a thing. They just ignored the treasurers. When we finally got their attention, they said: No, we are not giving it back. We are keeping the money.

Well, the treasurers sued them and are still in court. And not only has the U.S. Department of Treasury not given the money back, they have gone and hired lawyers. They are spending millions and millions and millions of dollars to try to keep this money from the American people.

Remember, the U.S. Department of Treasury—they have the names and they have the addresses. They may be old addresses, but all they would have to do would be to give the names and the old addresses to the State treasurers in every State. For example, in my State in Louisiana—and we have asked Treasury to do this. The U.S. Department of Treasury could just give all the names of all the people in Louisiana to whom this money is owed through savings bonds and give them the addresses, and the treasurer in my State will track these people down and give them back their money. But the U.S. Department of Treasury won't do

it. They are fighting us in court. Do you know why they won't do it? Greed. They figure people will never go claim their money. They are just going to keep it. You can't do that if you are a business. If you are a business in America and you have somebody's money, you have to go look for them—it is a law in every State—and if you can't find them, you have to turn the money over to the State treasurer, and the State treasurer gives it back. Not the Federal Government. Not the Department of Treasury. We are talking real money here.

I am going to give an example. I see my good friend Senator CORNYN over here. He works hard for the people of Texas. They love him. I just came back from San Antonio. They love Senator CORNYN. Do you know how much the U.S. Department of Treasury owes Senator CORNYN's people just in Texas? They are owed $2.1 billion. This money isn't lost; the Department of Treasury has it. They have the names, and they have the addresses.

Now, as we went along in our lawsuit—and the lawsuit is still pending. It is not mine anymore. I am no longer State treasurer. One of the statements that the Department of Treasury filed in court—I almost laughed. If I had been in court, I would have laughed. They said: Yeah, we have the names and we have the addresses, but it would cost $128 million to organize the records. That was one of the excuses they gave to the judge. Give me a break. If you believe that, you will never own your own home. If you and I lie to the government, we can go to jail, but if the government lies to us—''Oh, it will take $128 million to organize the records''—that is called politics. Oklahoma, which is next door to Texas, is owed $312 million. As far as Michigan, the U.S. Department of Treasury is holding $773 million in fully redeemed—they are not paying interest anymore—but unclaimed savings bonds from the people of Michigan. Do you think some of those folks in Michigan could use that money right now to maybe save for retirement or maybe to educate their children? Idaho is not very big. It has a bunch of lakes, and it is a great State. It is owed $128 million. Tennessee is owed $480 million; Wyoming, $45 million; and New York, $1.5 billion.

I am just beside myself. Do you wonder why people hate government? Here it is. We have to pay our taxes in the right amount and on time. If we don't do it, they come and take our firstborn, and if we are late, they fine us. This is the IRS under the Department of Treasury. But here they have $26 billion, and they have the names and they have the addresses, and they won't give it back. It is an embarrassment. It is a disgrace. They should hide their heads in a bag.

Now, I have a bill. I am hoping my colleagues will support it. It is called the Unclaimed Savings Bond Act of 2019, S. 2417. It is a very simple bill. It would just tell the U.S. Department of Treasury to do its job. It doesn't own this money. It doesn't own this money, it is not theirs, and they need to give it back. And they don't have to spend a lot of time on it. All they have to do is give the names and the addresses to every State treasurer. I will give them their cell numbers if they want it. Just give the names and the addresses to the State treasurers.

I would like to get our Senators involved in Florida, where our Presiding Officer and Senator RUBIO are from. I would like them to have the names. Maybe they could go out—we used to do this when we had unclaimed property in Louisiana. You can go advertise in the paper or on the radio or on television or on the internet and say: I am going to be out at the so-and-so mall this Saturday from 10 to 12 with my computers and my team's computers. Come on out and check your name and see if you have unredeemed savings bonds.

People come out, and you would be surprised, they find their name, and you say: OK. We will get your current address, and we will get you a check in 2 weeks. People say: Gosh, the last time the government gave me any money was never. But they feel a little bit better about their government.

This bill will work. I can't imagine who would oppose this bill except my friends at the Department of Treasury, and they don't have a good reason for opposing it. They just want to keep the money.

I am going to be talking about this a lot because the money is important. People have worked hard for this. But I will tell you what is more important—the principle. We have to pay our taxes in the right amount and on time. When the government has our money, they ought to give it back to us in the right amount and on time.

Thank you for your attention and your time.

I yield to Senator CORNYN, who has over $2 billion of uncashed savings bonds in his State, thanks to our Department of Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, let me begin my remarks by thanking my friend for, No. 1, visiting Texas this past weekend. We are next-door neighbors. We share a lot in common. But, particularly, I want to thank him for highlighting this injustice. It is shocking to me that a U.S. Senator would have to introduce legislation to pass both Houses and get the President's signature for people to get their money back from the Federal Government. It is shocking, and I didn't know anything about it until the Senator from Louisiana highlighted it, so I thank him for that.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the bill and would encourage all of our colleagues to join. I can't imagine why it couldn't pass by unanimous consent. I don't even know why we need to process this through the normal regular order, as we call it around here, but I wish him good luck and certainly my constituents would like to see that $2.1 billion back in their pockets instead of the Federal Treasury. So I thank him.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. President, on another matter, during the August break back home, I heard from a startling number of my constituents about their increasing struggles to deal with the cost of their prescription medications. This included stories about skipping their blood pressure medication or diabetics rationing their insulin and people traveling across the border, going to Mexico—to the farmacias in Mexico—to get inhalers at a lower price. Of course, the problem is, you don't know when you go to another country whether it is as advertised, whether it is counterfeit, or whether it is genuine. So there are risks associated with that. But my point is that people are struggling to deal with their drug costs, and they are going to extraordinary means, some of which are potentially dangerous to their health.

I know my constituents back home are frustrated by confusing price hikes. They don't understand the dramatic price differences from one pharmacy to the next. They are terrified about what will happen if the price gets so high that they will have to give up taking their prescriptions altogether.

It is no surprise that a recent Gallup poll found that Americans view the pharmaceutical industry more negatively than any other industry. A whopping 58 percent said that they have a negative view of the pharmaceutical industry, and 48 percent have a negative view of the healthcare industry as a whole. Congress's numbers are much worse than that, but the point is, people are concerned, and they want us to do something about it.

When the products and services these groups provide mean the difference between life and death—which they do—that lack of trust is a bad sign, to be sure. I believe, along with many of my colleagues, that it is time to get to the bottom of these rising costs and provide the American people with some transparency, some clarity, some peace of mind, and hopefully a break in their out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs.

In the Senate we have taken a bipartisan approach that reaches across several of our standing committees, and we have made some serious progress. I would like to remind anybody who is listening what we have done so far and what we need to do next.

Earlier this summer, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee passed a package to end surprise billing to create more transparency and create more competition. The Senate Finance Committee on which I sit passed a package of bills designed to reduce prescription drug prices for seniors and children, and the Judiciary Committee, on which I also

sit, has passed several bills to lower the cost of prescription drugs and stop bad actors from gaming the system.

We have talked to every major player in the supply chain and have asked questions about the confusing practices that are driving up costs. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the Presiding Officer's leadership when it comes to this topic, knowledgeable as he is about the healthcare industry, beyond the average Senator.

One example of the problem is the anti-competitive behavior of drug manufacturers. Companies pour extensive time and money into research and development of new medications, and that is good. What they get in return is the ability to recover their costs and earn a profit under a patent. These patents justifiably protect the intellectual property of these drugs for a time and are a key driver behind the incredible innovation that occurs here in the United States.

The United States discovers and manufactures more innovative and lifesaving drugs than any other country in the world, but we are increasingly seeing companies using the patent system as a shield for competition beyond the life of a patent, and it is time we put that to a stop.

One of the bills in the Judiciary Committee that I introduced is called the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act, which would address two circumstances that lead to higher drug costs. First is something called product hopping, which occurs when a company develops a reformulation of a product that is about to lose its patent and pulls the original product from the market. This is done not because the new formula is more effective, necessarily, but because it prevents generic competitors from competing with the original product.

One example is a drug called Namenda, which is used by patients with Alzheimer's disease, a terrible, devastating disease. Near the end of the exclusivity period, the manufacturers switched from a twice-daily drug to a once-daily drug. That move, under the current law, prevented pharmacists from being able to switch patients to a lower cost generic—even though it is just as effective—so the company could continue to earn a profit under this exclusivity provision under the patent laws. By defining these types of anti-competitive behaviors, the Federal Trade Commission would be able to bring antitrust suits against the bad actors who deliberately game the system.

Secondly, the bill disarms patent thickets, which occur when an innovator uses multiple overlapping patents or patents with identical claims to make it harder for competitors to enter the field. One example is the drug HUMIRA, which is commonly used to treat arthritis and a number of other conditions. AbbVie, the manufacturer of HUMIRA, has 136 patents and 247 patent applications on that drug, which has been available for more than 15 years. This type of behavior makes it very difficult for biosimilar manufacturers to bring a product to market—competition. While the patent on the actual drug formula may have expired, there are still, in this case, hundreds of other patents to sort through. Litigating all of these extraneous patents is expensive, difficult, and unnecessary. This artificial structure denies market entry for competitors years beyond the exclusivity period that the law intends to grant. Today, there are five competitors of HUMIRA that are available in Europe, but they are blocked from being sold in the United States until 2023.

This bill will not stifle innovation or punish those who use the patent system as it is intended; it simply stops the bad guys from profiting off the backs of patients. This is a critical component of our efforts to bring down drug costs, and I am glad this proposal received unanimous support in the Judiciary Committee.

Later this week, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee is holding a hearing about pharmaceutical companies gaming the system, and I am eager to see what kinds of proposals our friends in the House introduce as part of this effort.

I think it is fair to say that we have done some serious work here in the Senate when it comes to reducing prescription drug costs, but we have work ahead of us to do. In other words, we have to bring them to the floor for a vote, and I hope we do so soon.

I appreciate the countless Texans who have reached out and communicated with me and who continue to reach out to share their concerns and their stories about unnecessarily high out-of-pocket drug costs. I am committed to working with all of our colleagues across the aisle to address these rising healthcare costs generally and to ensure that drug companies put patients before profits.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

NOMINATION OF JOHN RAKOLTA, JR.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of the nomination of Mr. John Rakolta to become the Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Rakolta is the owner of a construction company that builds major projects like factories, churches, hospitals, and airports. His firm guides the work of thousands of workers here in the United States and in countries around the globe. With revenues of approximately $1.7 billion annually, he has built one of the largest and most successful general contractors in the Nation.

I presume this success has made him a prosperous person, but he is also a person who is actively engaged in his community. He has served on the boards of numerous organizations, several of which have focused on the rejuvenation of his city of Detroit and its less advantaged citizens. He has also received so many awards that it would be impractical to list them all here today, but I note that he has been honored by such groups as United Way, the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce, the Urban League of Detroit, the Boy Scouts of America, and New Detroit.

Of course, my friends on the other side of the aisle are dutiful in their examination of any possible flaw. I am convinced that the concerns they may have raised are not well-founded, and he is, in fact, entirely qualified and appropriately nominated to this important position.

I note that I am biased in favor of Mr. Rakolta because I have known him personally for more than 30 years. He and his family have spent dozens of evenings in the home of my parents, studying the teachings of their faith. He is a man who makes commitments only after a great deal of thought, and when they are made, he is fully loyal to them in his business, in his community, in his Nation, in his faith, and in his marriage and family of 4 children and 11 grandchildren.

I know John Rakolta as a man of honor and integrity, and I am convinced that he will serve the country well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rakolta nomination?

Mr. ROMNEY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), 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 63, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 283 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Barrasso	Coons	Fischer
Blackburn	Cornyn	Gardner
Blunt	Cotton	Graham
Boozman	Cramer	Grassley
Braun	Crapo	Hassan
Burr	Cruz	Hawley
Capito	Daines	Hoeven
Cassidy	Enzi	Hyde-Smith
Collins	Ernst	Inhofe

Isakson	Murphy	Shaheen
Johnson	Paul	Shelby
Jones	Perdue	Sinema
Kennedy	Peters	Stabenow
King	Portman	Sullivan
Lankford	Risch	Tester
Lee	Romney	Thune
Manchin	Rounds	Tillis
McConnell	Rubio	Toomey
McSally	Sasse	Van Hollen
Moran	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Murkowski	Scott (SC)	Young

NAYS—30

Baldwin	Feinstein	Murray
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Reed
Brown	Heinrich	Rosen
Cantwell	Hirono	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Udall
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Duckworth	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Harris	Warren
Bennet	Roberts	
Booker	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

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 Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden, 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 Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 284 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Barrasso	Graham	Murphy
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Blunt	Hassan	Perdue
Boozman	Hawley	Portman
Braun	Hoeven	Risch
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Capito	Inhofe	Rounds
Carper	Isakson	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Collins	Jones	Scott (FL)
Coons	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cotton	King	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sinema
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Manchin	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Enzi	McSally	Toomey
Ernst	Merkley	Warner
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Gardner	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—29

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Murray	Van Hollen
Durbin	Peters	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Reed	

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander	Harris	Warren
Bennet	Roberts	Wyden
Booker	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 29.

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 Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:20 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I rise today with mixed emotions. I rise to recognize an incredible Georgian, a true statesman, a titan of the United States Senate, and, maybe most important, a friend to me and many people here in this town and back home in Georgia: Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON.

Like everyone, I was surprised and saddened to hear of JOHNNY's upcoming retirement. Since my very first day in the Senate walking through this door back here to be sworn in with JOHNNY escorting me, I have come to revere this guy. He has been a mentor that I have looked up to. He has been a great leader for our State for many years. He has been a reliable and effective colleague. Most of all, he has been a friend whom I deeply cherish.

It will be hard to see him go, but the reality is he won't go. He will still be involved here. I am sure I will get the phone calls about when we might have disagreed on a vote or why didn't I think about this. He has been a tremendous partner for me these last 4 years.

However, JOHNNY has left a profound legacy that is worth celebrating. It is one that we should all strive to follow here in this body. He epitomizes the best of this body, the United States Senate.

His legacy can be summed up in one word: service. No matter what he does, JOHNNY puts other people before himself, and this has continued since the first day I knew him back when he was running a real estate company in Atlanta, GA. JOHNNY puts other people first before himself. He doesn't do it for recognition or fame. Many times, he does it when people don't even notice or know he did it. He does it because it is the right thing to do.

He served his country as a member of the Georgia Air National Guard. He served his community as a Sunday schoolteacher for 30 years. I have done that, and I know that is a labor of love. That takes a lot of work.

He served the people of Georgia in the statehouse and the State senate and later in both houses of the U.S. Congress. In fact, he is the only Georgian to ever have done that. No matter what role JOHNNY has been in, he is always focused on helping others.

His dedication to service is even more impressive because it has produced incredible results for our country. This town has a lot of activity, but it is short on results. JOHNNY knew the difference. For example, one of JOHNNY's top priorities in Congress had been to take care of our country's veterans. Georgia is home to over 700,000 veterans today. As a veteran himself, JOHNNY treats each one of them as his own sister or brother. When JOHNNY saw the shameful conditions and mismanagement happening at the VA, he immediately sprang into action.

Fixing the VA seemed impossible, but no challenge was too large for JOHNNY ISAKSON. Thanks to him, as chairman of the Senate Veterans Administration Committee, we have made incredible progress on this and many

other fronts relating to the VA. His efforts, such as the VA MISSION Act, have helped bring accountability, efficiency, and trust back to the department.

As the junior Senator from Georgia, I have had the great pleasure of working directly with JOHNNY on a number of other issues affecting our State. Each time, I saw firsthand how effective JOHNNY ISAKSON really is. I have likened him to the Howard Baker of our era. He speaks softly, but when he speaks, people listen.

Working with JOHNNY, we broke the politic logjam to provide much-needed disaster relief for farmers in south Georgia just this year. We secured funding for the deepening of the Port of Savannah after 20 years of trying to get that port deepened just 5 feet. We solved the tax problem under his leadership for Plant Vogtle, which secured funding for the first two nuclear reactors built in this country in the last 30 years, and he helped pass the First Step Act, which makes our justice system fairer, while still deterring criminal behavior.

These achievements would not have been possible without JOHNNY's steady hand and his leadership. When he speaks, people listen. He gets the job done. He understands what priority means; yet JOHNNY isn't the kind of leader who gives orders and makes demands. He is someone who leads from a place of respect, compromise, and understanding with both sides of the aisle. With JOHNNY, it doesn't matter who you are or what party you are in or where you are from. He is always there to talk and always ready to listen.

JOHNNY ISAKSON is exactly the kind of servant leader that the Founding Mothers and Founding Fathers envisioned for our country. It is what makes him a true statesman, and it is a model I am sure our Founding Mothers and Founding Fathers would indeed be very proud of today.

Of course, the road has not always been easy for JOHNNY—not every battle has been won, not all news has been good. What I have always admired about JOHNNY, though, is his stalwart resilience. Whenever circumstances have tried to knock him down, he always gets back up with a smile, and he keeps serving others. You know you feel guilty when you are around JOHNNY ISAKSON when you are having a bad day and JOHNNY says: How are you doing? You better say great because he is going to give you that same answer.

As he and Dianne head into this next chapter of their life, I have no doubt that JOHNNY will continue to serve others and help make our world a better place because that is exactly who he is.

Scripture tells us in Matthew 23 that ''The greatest among you will be a servant.'' When you consider all that JOHNNY has done, it is clear to me that JOHNNY ISAKSON truly is the greatest among us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

GUN CONTROL MEASURES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, to my right is an August 11, 2019, cover from the Washington Post. It shows the faces of the 423 people killed in mass shootings between the Sandy Hook massacre in 2012 and the recent shooting in Dayton, OH. This is more than a third of the 1,196 people killed in mass shootings since 1966, so shootings have grown dramatically in this country. This should not be the face of America.

I think we have got to do much more to stop the plague of gun violence that continues to take the lives of the most innocent among us, including the 20 small beautiful children who lost their lives that December in Newtown. I have their photo at home, and I look at it almost every day, and it is indeed a heartbreaker.

Today, I would like to speak about a few bills that I believe the Senate should be voting on right now. Specifically, we should be voting on requiring universal background checks, banning assault weapons, banning high-capacity magazines, and supporting enactment of extreme risk laws.

The House passed a strong bill on universal background checks that has been sitting on Leader MCCONNELL's desk now for more than 200 days. According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll, 89 percent of Americans support universal background checks, and that includes 83 percent of Republicans; yet that bill sits on Leader MCCONNELL's desk.

We have seen even more lives lost in the last several weeks while this bill languishes on the Senate calendar. The shootings in Gilroy, Dayton, El Paso, Midland-Odessa took the lives of 41 people, including a 6-year-old boy named Steven Romero. A background check could have prevented the shooter in Odessa and Midland from getting his gun.

Unfortunately, he was able to purchase a firearm through a private sale that does not require a background check, and still, we wait for a vote on this bill to close the gaping loopholes of our background check system. Please, Leader MCCONNELL, let us vote on this bill.

Sadly, what has become all too common is that each of the shootings I mentioned involved an assault weapon. The Gilroy shooter used a WASR 10, which is an AK–47 style semiautomatic weapon. The rifle was equipped with a 75-round drum magazine. In this case, the shooter intentionally crossed into Nevada to purchase the gun, as the sale of assault weapons is banned in California. The Dayton shooter used an AM15 assault rifle equipped with a 100-round drum magazine. The El Paso shooter also used a WASR 10 rifle, and the shooter in Midland and Odessa used an AR–15-style rifle.

These are weapons of war, plain and simple. Their main function is to kill as many people as possible. In fact, in two of these shootings—Gilroy and Dayton—law enforcement arrived in less than a minute, but in that time, dozens of people had been injured or killed.

I strongly believe that reinstating the Federal ban on assault weapons could have saved some of the lives that have been recently lost. As the New York Times reported in an op-ed titled, ''That Assault Weapons Ban? It Really Did Work,'' data shows that, compared with the decade before its adoption, the Federal assault weapons ban, in effect from September 1994 through 2004, was associated with a 25-percent drop in gun massacres—a massacre is from 6 to 8 people—and a 40-percent drop in fatalities from 81 to 49. We need to reinstate the Federal assault weapons ban. It worked before, and it will work again.

We also need to ban high-capacity magazines. My legislation to ban assault weapons includes this provision, and there are standalone bills as well. Just a few weeks ago, at Northern Police Station in San Francisco, I had the opportunity to examine a 100-round magazine personally—two rounds that fit on a rifle or a revolver. I couldn't believe it, 100 rounds that could be used just round after round after round so easily. It is lightweight. It is simple to use. It is diabolical. And the only purpose of it is to kill as many people as possible as fast as possible.

Keeping high-capacity magazines out of the hands of mass shooters is particularly important because, many times, shootings are only stopped when the shooter has to pause and reload. In 2011, the shooter in Tucson, who shot then-Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, was only stopped when bystanders wrestled the shooter to the ground after he stopped firing to reload. Civilians have no use for these devices, so all they are doing is costing innocent life.

Finally, the Senate should be considering legislation on extreme risk laws. Seventeen States and the District of Columbia already have them. These laws allow family members and law enforcement to go to court before a judge and get a temporary lawful order to keep a gun out of the hands of someone who is dangerous. These orders involve judicial findings, presentation of evidence, and court proceedings that protect people's due process rights. There is legislation, too. It is called the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019. It would create new grants to incentivize States to enact their own extreme risk laws.

The House Judiciary Committee recently passed companion legislation, and polls have shown the majority of Americans support these measures.

According to the same Washington Post-ABC News poll I mentioned earlier, 86 percent of Americans support these measures—86 percent, including 85 percent of Republicans.

I hope Members will listen to this because these are needless deaths and

needless murders. They need not have happened. Simply put, this body and the Senate Judiciary Committee should really be taking action today to protect against gun violence.

Last week, the House Judiciary Committee passed three bills that would ban high-capacity magazines, would prohibit people convicted of hate crimes from possessing firearms, and would incentivize States to create extreme risk laws. I am so disappointed our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have blocked these commonsense measures for years, and I would appeal to them: Please, it is time for us to act. We cannot let another mass shooting go by and not take even these simple steps.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor to recognize the critical moment that is before us as a country. We have an opportunity to make real progress on bipartisan gun reforms that will help keep our communities safer while respecting our treasured Second Amendment rights.

America's epidemic of gun violence continues to devastate communities and families across our Nation. Last month, in just August alone, mass shootings in El Paso, in Dayton, and in Odessa claimed the lives of more than 50 innocent Americans. Individual Americans, meanwhile, fall victim to gun violence every single day. Whether through suicide or homicide, they take far too many lives far too early. Just this past weekend, four Delawareans in my hometown were shot, and in 2017, up and down my home State, 111 Delawareans were killed by firearms. Guns are now the third leading cause of death for Delaware's children under age 17.

Folks, these are not just numbers; each gun death is a son, a daughter, a neighbor, a congregation member, or a friend.

In a recent meeting with Moms Demand Action in my office in Wilmington, I listened to young parents who were confronting for the first time the reality of active shooter drills in schools as they sent their children to school for the first time and had them come home and ask questions about why we as parents could not do more to keep them safe in school.

Viewing this ongoing crisis through the eyes of our children—those who are told to be quiet, to hide in a closet, to wait out a moment of sheer terror—is a reminder that our children are scared, that our families are scared, that our neighbors are scared, and that we can and must do more to address this epidemic.

Some of the most crucial steps we take must be taken at the Federal level. Yet, to make progress, the party that controls this body and this floor has to join hands with those of us in my party—those willing to work across the aisle in a responsible way—and lead. Frankly, more than anything else, as has been said by the Republican majority leader, President Trump needs to take a clear and firm position and stick to it. The American people deserve no less. If this body is going to take up and pass gun control legislation, it will require our President to lead.

I think bringing bipartisan bills to the floor here for a vote is a great place to start. I want to talk for a few minutes about one of those bills that I introduced with Republican Senator PAT TOOMEY, of the neighboring Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, called the NICS Denial Notification Act.

It has a simple objective. For those who are prohibited by law from owning a weapon—those who are convicted felons or who have been adjudicated mentally ill—but who go to a firearms dealer, fill out the background check form, lie on it, and say they are able to buy a gun but get denied, get turned down once that NICS background check is run, what do you think happens with that information? Where does the information go showing that convicted felons are trying to buy weapons once they have been denied?

In my home State, it goes nowhere. In 34 States, it goes nowhere. In States across the country, not just in Delaware but in New York, Kentucky, and Texas, local law enforcement may never learn about a convicted felon who is actively trying to buy a gun and who is often committing another offense by lying about it in that attempt. Our bill would fix that.

It requires Federal authorities to alert State law enforcement of any background check denial so State authorities can decide whether to investigate or to prosecute or to go and pay a visit to someone given this important and imminent sign of an intention to engage in criminal activity.

It also requires our Federal Department of Justice to publish an annual report with statistics about its prosecution of background check denial cases so we in Congress and so folks around the country can better enforce our existing gun laws.

What I hear, time and again in townhalls back home in Delaware, is that folks want us to enforce our existing gun laws more thoroughly and more wisely, and that is exactly what this proposal would do.

In Delaware, I have met with and heard from law enforcement leaders up and down our State. The chiefs of police from our State police, our county police, and our municipal police have uniformly said they would welcome the information of those convicted felons in their towns, in their counties, or in our State who are trying to get their hands on guns.

At a hearing back in May in the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman LINDSEY GRAHAM said this proposal was a painfully obvious bipartisan bill that we should take up and pass. He has committed to me that he would like to see it pass committee. There are a lot of other Senators who agree, not just Democrats like Senators DUCKWORTH, JONES, and KLOBUCHAR but also friends from across the aisle. Senators PERDUE, RUBIO, and COLLINS have joined in cosponsoring this, and I know there are other Senators who are eager or who are willing to join in the days ahead. The NICS Denial Notification Act is exactly the sort of commonsense, narrowly crafted bipartisan bill that would pass the Senate tomorrow if Leader MCCONNELL would bring it to the floor for a vote.

Simply put, bills like this and bills such as we discussed at that hearing on the Committee on the Judiciary regarding extreme risk protection orders provide an appropriate way for there to be due process protections for demonstrably mentally ill individuals who threaten harm to others by having their guns removed from them for a brief period or for there to be universal background checks, such as legislation that advanced in the House 6 months ago on a bipartisan basis. These sorts of proposals can help to keep guns away from people who should not have them.

It is clear to me, from poll after poll, survey after survey, and tragic story after tragic story, that the American people want us to act, and they want us to act on background checks. We should vote on the Senate companion to H.R. 8. It is long past time for our leader, the majority leader, to join with the majority of the country and put that bill on the Senate floor.

Just last week, the House Committee on the Judiciary passed the Keep Americans Safe Act, which would prohibit the high-capacity magazines that have been used in so many of these recent, tragic mass shootings. If the leader were to bring this to the floor and it were to pass, it, along with all of the other bills I just referenced, would help to save lives.

It is my hope that our President will see this moment as an opportunity for real leadership and will listen to the majority of Americans, the majority of Democrats, the majority of Republicans, and the majority of gun owners who would like to see us act in a responsible and bipartisan way in order to reduce the easy access criminals have to guns and will take an important step forward in making our country, our schools, our communities, and our families safe.

What I hear back home in Delaware is that the overwhelming majority of Americans are sick and tired of our thoughts and prayers after every shooting. They would be so much more

inspired if we actually took the risk of enacting legislation together. I think it is long past time for us to do just that, and I hope we will in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), 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. CASSIDY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 285 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blackburn	Hassan	Perdue
Blunt	Hawley	Portman
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Burr	Inhofe	Rounds
Capito	Isakson	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Collins	Jones	Scott (FL)
Coons	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cotton	King	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sinema
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Manchin	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Enzi	McSally	Toomey
Ernst	Merkley	Warner
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Gardner	Murkowski	Young
Graham	Murphy	

NAYS—32

Baldwin	Feinstein	Rosen
Bennet	Gillibrand	Schatz
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Markey	Udall
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murray	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Peters	Wyden
Durbin	Reed	

NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Roberts	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

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

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

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 Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

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 Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, 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 Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 286 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Barrasso	Blunt	Braun
Blackburn	Boozman	Burr
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Cassidy	Inhofe	Rounds
Cornyn	Isakson	Rubio
Cotton	Johnson	Sasse
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lee	Shelby
Enzi	McConnell	Sullivan
Ernst	McSally	Thune
Fischer	Moran	Tillis
Gardner	Murkowski	Toomey
Graham	Paul	Wicker
Grassley	Perdue	Young
Hawley	Portman	
Hoeven	Risch	

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	

NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Harris	Warren
Booker	Roberts	
Cruz	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 49 and the nays are 44.

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 Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

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 Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be Under Secretary of the Treasury, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER),

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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 287 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Barrasso	Gardner	Murphy
Blackburn	Graham	Perdue
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoeven	Romney
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Isakson	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sinema
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Manchin	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Enzi	McSally	Toomey
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—40

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Durbin	Paul	Wyden
Feinstein	Peters	
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Roberts	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 40.

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 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 Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

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 Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, 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 Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), 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 55, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 288 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Barrasso	Fischer	Perdue
Blackburn	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cardin	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Carper	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Jones	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Sinema
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	McSally	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Enzi	Murkowski	
Ernst	Murphy	

NAYS—37

Baldwin	Heinrich	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	King	Smith
Cantwell	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murray	Warner
Durbin	Paul	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander	Johnson	Sanders
Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 37.

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 Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time on the Destro, McIntosh, and Callanan nominations expire at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18, and if the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 314, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 314) honoring the centennial of the Aerospace Industries Association.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 314) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, September 18; 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 Destro nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

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

The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

GUN CONTROL MEASURES

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise this evening with many of my Democratic colleagues to speak about an issue that is on the minds of families all across our country. I thank Senator MURPHY for organizing this very important action this evening.

Back-to-school always brings back such great memories of my own children, my son and daughter. I remember them packing crayons and paper in their new backpacks and eagerly heading off to meet their new teachers and catch up with friends to talk about what they did during the summer. It had always been such an exciting time of year for them. Unfortunately, it is not the same now for their children, my grandchildren.

I have two grandsons and a granddaughter who are now in school. The first new question that was asked when buying their backpacks was: Do you want a bulletproof backpack? Do you want a bulletproof backpack, was one of the questions in buying their backpacks for school.

I also think of 2 weeks ago when my youngest grandson started second grade. My daughter and I were talking about the fact that in addition to all of the excitement and the energy around starting school, there were changes—like a new front door and bulletproof windows and a new way to get into the school, walking in and having to stop and buzz and go through another door, and all of the changes and the costs that have gone into reconfiguring the school so you can't walk directly into classrooms.

It was important for the school to do that, but I am sure that what they would rather have been doing is adding more music and art classes and teachers and technology and other things for the children in that elementary school, rather than bulletproof windows and safety doors to stop a gunman from getting into the school.

Americans have learned that whether it is a school, a store, a church, a country music festival, a movie theater, or even sitting on your front porch, no place is safe anymore. Thanks to this country's epidemic of gun violence, even a child playing football in his own backyard or doing her homework at the kitchen table in her own home can become the target of a stray bullet.

Last week, Senate Democrats released a report that shows 100 Americans are killed by guns every single day—100 people every single day. That is enough people to fill every desk in this Chamber day after day after day—100 people killed by gun violence every single day.

In fact, since the House passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, there have been an estimated 20,200 people killed by gun violence, 12,322 suicides using a gun, and 808 children—808 children—killed by firearms.

Those are some of the numbers, but we are not here tonight to just talk about numbers. We are talking about people's lives. These people have names like Judy and Barbara, Mary Jo and Mary Lou, and Richard and Tyler. These six people were killed in 2016 when an Uber driver went on a shooting spree across Kalamazoo County, MI. Two other people, Abigail and Tiana, were gravely wounded.

Tiana watched the car coming toward her and saw the driver pull out a handgun. Tiana told her daughters to run and stood still to shield them. Once she knew they were safe, she tried to get away too. The gunman pulled the trigger 15 times. Tiana was shot four times. Only when she laid on the ground and played dead did the bullets stop.

Broken bodies, shattered families, grieving communities. This story is one that is repeated across this country every single day now, and it has to stop.

The American people expect the Senate to do its job and take action to make their lives better and safer. Unfortunately, that isn't happening, and the American people are paying the price.

Two hundred and two days ago—202 days ago the Democratic House passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act—202 days ago—which would require a background check for every gun sale, something pretty simple and common sense. That could have stopped the shooter in West Texas who killed 7 innocent people and wounded another 25. It makes you wonder how many of the 301 mass shootings that have happened since January 1 could have been prevented and how many lives could have been saved.

Requiring a background check for every gun purchase isn't controversial. In fact, it is what Americans are asking for. It is pretty common sense.

I come from rural Michigan, and in Northern Michigan my whole family is involved in hunting and all of the great outdoor sports. I have lived with legal, safe gun ownership my whole life. No one in my family believes that someone should be able to buy a gun without getting a background check. It is just common sense.

That is why more than 90 percent of Americans want Congress to do just that—to pass universal background checks. Yet the bill sits on the Senate Republican leader's desk, Senator MCCONNELL's desk, waiting, waiting, waiting for action for 202 days. While MITCH MCCONNELL and President Trump wait for approval from Big Money special interests, Americans are dying. It is time to act.

The beginning of school should be something our young people look forward to, not fear.

Next year, students at Fruitport High School in West Michigan will attend a brandnew school in a brandnew building. It has all sorts of amenities—10 science classrooms with spacious labs, a drafting lab with a 3D printer, and art studios complete with pottery kilns. It will also feature curved hallways to reduce a shooter's sight line, shatterproof glass, and wing walls that will provide places for students to hide in classrooms.

It is great that the school district is investing in the safety of its students, but it is also heartbreaking that they have to do so. Students in Fruitport and across Michigan should be focused on next week's math test or tomorrow night's football game, not where they can duck and take cover in their school.

It is time for America to stop failing our young people. Majority Leader MCCONNELL, what are you waiting for?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Michigan and those who have joined together on the Democratic side to speak out on the issue of gun safety this afternoon and this evening.

I guess one of the real blessings in life is to have a grandchild, and I have got six really good ones. One is a little girl who has just entered the third grade in a public school in Brooklyn, NY. She is a sweetheart, and I love her to pieces.

She came home to tell her mom and dad last year, when she was in the second grade, that they just had a drill in her classroom, and they told her what to do if someone showed up in the hallway or outside with a gun: hide under the desk, stay away from the windows.

To think that little 7-year-old girl had to receive that kind of warning in America today breaks my heart. Why?

Does anyone really honestly believe that when the Second Amendment to the Constitution was written they envisioned the fear that would go through the minds of children who, after Connecticut, worry that some shooter will come in with a semiautomatic weapon and kill dozens of kids in one moment? That is the reality of gun violence today. That is one of the realities, and it is one that just breaks my heart as a father and grandfather.

Over the past few weeks, our Nation has been rocked by mass shootings in El Paso, Dayton, and Odessa, TX, that left 38 victims dead and dozens more injured.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, so far this year there have been 300 mass shootings. That means shootings where more than four people were shot in one event. This is in addition to

the daily toll of gun homicides, suicides, and accidents that kill nearly 40,000 Americans a year.

Every week, I see the grim statistics of people killed and wounded by gunfire in my home State of Illinois. Just this past weekend—just this past weekend, in Chicago, at least 8 people were killed and 19 more injured by gunfire.

Gun violence is an epidemic in America. It affects communities large and small. I have met countless people who have lost loved ones or who have been traumatized by gun violence.

Millions of Americans now live in fear that when they send their kids—or grandkids—off to school, when they go to a movie theater, a concert, or to church, or even when they sit on their front porch, they could be shot. This is unacceptable. America is better than this.

There are many people in this great Nation who are doing all they can to try to reduce the epidemic of shootings—parents, community leaders, teachers, faith leaders, law enforcement, the medical community, and public officials, but what are we doing in the U.S. Senate? The answer is nothing—nothing.

There is no single reform that can prevent every shooting, but we know there are big gaps in our gun laws that make it easy for felons, abusers, and mentally unstable people to get their hands on guns. Closing these gaps and loopholes in our background checks system would significantly reduce shootings and save lives.

It is estimated that 22 percent of gun sales nationwide currently occur without a background check. Now, I know the critics say: Oh, great, Senator. You are going to have better background checks. Let me tell you, the people who want these guns are not going to go through that process. It turns out that, last year, 100,000 of them were ignorant enough to try, and they were caught in the act. They had been disqualified from purchasing a firearm under Federal law, and yet they made that try. Why would we ever let them successfully buy a firearm? Without a real background check, they will.

Gun show and internet loopholes are the problems that haunt us today. They enable unlicensed sellers to make sales without even checking on the background of the buyer. According to news reports, the gunman in the Odessa, TX, mass shooting bought his gun through a private sale with no background check because he previously failed a check. Clearly, there is a gap in the law that needs to be closed.

Polling consistently shows that 90 percent of Americans support closing these gaps in the background check system. How many other issues do 90 percent of Americans agree on, to have that kind of number, for Democrats, Republicans, and Independents?

The people of America are trying to tell the Senators to do something, and yet Senator MCCONNELL refuses. Even the conservative Republican Lieutenant Governor of Texas, Dan Patrick, has called for closing these gaps in the background check system. I hope the Senators from Lieutenant Governor Patrick's State are listening. The House of Representatives have listened, and they have done so.

The bipartisan House background check bill, H.R. 8, passed the House 240 to 190, on a bipartisan rollcall on February 27. Here we are, over 200 days later. The Senate, which does virtually nothing every single day, through Senator MCCONNELL's leadership, refuses to even consider this bill. Senate Republicans refuse to even consider the bipartisan House-passed gun safety legislation that Americans of both political parties overwhelmingly support.

In fact, they are avoiding taking up any bills at all. Week after week after week, we vote on nomination after nomination after nomination. We hardly ever debate. We hardly ever vote on legislation to address the needs the American people say are the primary concerns on their minds.

While Republican leadership in the Senate these days doesn't seem to like to vote, they do like to tweet. Perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised when one of our Republican colleagues, the junior Senator from Texas, responded to a recent mass shooting by tweeting criticism of gun laws in the city of Chicago.

There seems to be a fundamental misunderstanding by this Senator and some other Republicans who believe that, despite what the maps show us, Chicago is actually an island. Well, it is not. They seem to think there is no way that people could actually drive 20 minutes into northwest Indiana, go to a gun show, buy a truckload of guns, and sell them in the alleyways of the city of Chicago at night. It happens. It is the reason why a State law can't solve the problem.

Chicago's mayor—my friend—Lori Lightfoot, pointed out the obvious to the junior Senator from Texas. Sixty percent of illegal firearms recovered in Chicago come from out of State. That is why we need a Federal background check reform bill like the one that passed the House.

Mayor Lightfoot is right. She graciously invited Senator CRUZ, our colleague, to come visit Chicago, to see that it is not an island—it is connected to other States—and to see what the city is doing, trying to work to reduce the scourge of gun violence, and how Republican Senators, if they really want to help, can help by passing legislation for true background checks. I hope that the Senator from Texas accepts the invitation. It is a great town. We would like to show it to him.

Another area in which this do-nothing Senate has fallen short is when it comes to public safety threats posed by violent White supremacists. I have introduced the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act. It is the only legislation pending in the Senate to address White supremacist violence.

The gunman in the August 3 mass shooting in El Paso posted a White supremacist manifesto before he shot and killed 22 people and injured 24 others at a Walmart. Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident.

An unclassified May 2017 FBI-DHS joint intelligence bulletin found that ''white supremacist extremism poses [a] persistent threat of lethal violence.'' It also found that White supremacists ''were responsible for 49 homicides in 26 attacks from 2000 to 2016 . . . more than any other domestic extremist movement.''

At a July hearing, FBI Director Mr. Wray told me that the majority of domestic terrorism arrests this year involved White supremacists, White nationalists—and now they call themselves White identitarians, whatever that means.

It is clear that violent White supremacists are the most significant domestic terrorism threat facing America today. What have we done to address this? Nothing. Just like H.R. 8, just like the gun safety legislation, which we should be considering, Senator MCCONNELL refuses to bring anything before the Senate.

My bill, cosponsored by 21 Senators, including the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER, would establish offices to combat domestic terrorism at the Justice Department, FBI, and Department of Homeland Security. These offices will be required to take concrete steps to prevent domestic terrorism, including assessing and publicly reporting on domestic terrorism threats, focusing limited resources on the most significant threats, and providing information, training, and resources to assist State and local and Tribal law enforcement.

This would produce a sustained and coordinated effort with significantly more resources directed towards combating White supremacist violence. It would make America safer.

It is time for the Senate Republican majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, to let the Senate be a Senate, to actually debate. I stand tonight on the floor—and I am honored to be here, but let's face it, I am giving a speech to a largely empty Chamber in the hopes that some following the speech on C–SPAN or reading it later may take some information of value from it. I would much rather be engaged in a debate at this very moment on H.R. 8, how to pass it—if necessary, how to amend it—but to do something to respond to gun violence in Chicago, in Illinois, and across the entire United States.

It is time for Senator MCCONNELL to let the Senate be the Senate and vote on the House-passed gun background check bill. We need to take up other critical legislation as well to prevent gun violence and domestic terrorism. I hope he will consider my bill to address White supremacist violence. This legislation can make us safer and save lives if we can just bring it to a vote.

I yield the floor.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling on Leader MCCONNELL to immediately bring to the floor commonsense gun violence prevention legislation that is supported by the majority of the American people.

We must take action in response to the tragedies that have touched too many communities across the country, including in Gilroy, El Paso, Dayton, Midland, and Odessa just this summer. Time and again, we saw the American people respond with courage—the courage of a mother who shielded her child from gun fire, the courage of first responders who ran into the line of fire to save lives. It is time for the United States Senate to find the resolve to act with courage; the American people cannot afford any more inaction.

There are three bipartisan bills sitting on Leader MCCONNELL's desk that will help to save lives: the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, which requires a background check for the sale of all guns; the Enhanced Background Checks Act, which closes the Charleston loophole and gives law enforcement more time to complete a background check; and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which includes a provision based on my bill, the Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act, to keep domestic abusers and convicted stalkers from buying or owning a gun.

We should also take action to ban the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines and encourage States to enact extreme risk protection order laws to allow law enforcement or family members to intervene when a person is a danger to themselves or others. In a nation plagued by gun violence, passing these commonsense provisions will help save lives.

There are more shootings and more tragic losses all too often, and every time, we hear expressions of sympathy, but we have yet to see votes or action. The time has come to act, and we must act now.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, as we grieve with the communities of El Paso, Dayton, and Midland, I can't help but be reminded of the Seattle Jewish Federation, Marysville, Seattle Pacific University, Freeman High School, and so many other communities in my home State of Washington and nationwide that are suffering as a result of tragic and tragically preventable gun violence.

After each of these heartbreaking events, families in Washington State ask me, Why does this keep happening, and why can we not stop it?

The answer is the same every time: We can't stop it because Republicans, led by Leader MCCONNELL and, now, President Trump, will not let us. Because of this inaction, we have entered a very destructive cycle. People going about their days—to school, a movie theater, place of worship—to places where they should feel safe—lose their lives to gun violence.

Communities and Democrats speak out and call for commonsense reforms, such as the universal background checks, which the vast majority of Americans support. Meanwhile, Republicans stand by and refuse to take any meaningful action to stop these violent, senseless, preventable deaths, so nothing happens in Congress.

And then, months, weeks, days, or even hours later, the cycle starts all over again. Every time we have seen this cycle—across all of the terrible shootings that have plagued our country in recent years—there are two common threads. The first is that, in response to tragedy, communities have banded together to make their voices heard and press for change. I have been proud of gun advocates in Washington State, like the Alliance for Gun Responsibility and Moms Demand Action chapters in Spokane and across the State, who are leading the way and staying determined.

The second common thread is Senate Republicans. Every time we push for lifesaving reforms, it always ends at the same place, with the same thing standing in the way of change. The most frustrating part of this is that there are steps we could take right now—today—that will save lives.

The House has passed the universal background check legislation, H.R. 8, with bipartisan support. It is now languishing in the Senate, despite our calls for a vote, all because the majority leader just will not bring it up.

President Trump, who is so willing to use his bully pulpit for far less worthy causes, hasn't used it to take action in ways that could save lives right now. In other words, the President and Senate Republicans continue to make clear they are more interested in protecting the NRA than the families in my home State and across the country. That is simply unacceptable. Democrats are not going to stop calling for action.

Leader MCCONNELL should break the cycle here and now by putting H.R. 8 up for a vote, which would implement universal background checks and close inexplicable gun show and internet loopholes.

Considering that more than 80 percent of Americans support universal background checks, this bill should be a no-brainer. It is the first step we need to take to curb gun violence in our country, but it can't be the only one. If we are serious about truly putting an end to this epidemic, we should look at legislation to expand access to extreme risk protection orders—which has, by the way, been implemented in my home State of Washington—to get guns out of the hands of those who are in crisis. We should limit magazine sizes. We should revive the assault weapons ban and invest in gun violence research prevention.

These commonsense reforms can help us begin to break this cycle. We have to take action now to curb gun violence. That means starting with the universal background check legislation that is waiting right here in the Senate to take action.

My Democratic colleagues in the Senate and I have repeatedly called for a vote on H.R. 8, and we are going to keep putting pressure on Republicans in the Senate until we get one. We can't do it alone. We need to keep lifting up our voices together to demand change, as we did after Sandy Hook, after Parkland, after Marysville, and now following the terror in Texas and in Ohio.

It is not easy. I am not going to give up, and I know the millions of parents and grandparents and students and so many across our Nation are not going to give up either. Together, we can break this senseless cycle. It starts with the majority leader.

While we often disagree on the steps we believe need to be taken, I believe that all of us who are elected in the Senate would say that we came here to make a difference and certainly to do whatever we could to ensure the people we represent are safe. Right now, far too often, they are not. So the Senate is not doing its job.

I call on the majority leader to let us vote on H.R. 8. Let's send it to the President's desk. Let's do what the vast majority of Americans want us to do and take this first step to stop gun violence so we can finally begin to put a stop to this terrible deadly cycle.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, we are all coming to the Senate floor this evening to demand that we finally take real steps to address our Nation's gun violence epidemic. This epidemic is wide-reaching and knows no bounds. We need to listen to the students and to the young people who have grown weary from so many shootings at our schools.

In my home State of New Mexico in recent years, we have seen gun violence tragically take the lives of high school students in Aztec and Clovis and, just last month, college students in Hobbs. Every student and teacher should feel safe at school. No parent should have to live in fear of their child not coming home at the end of the day.

Across our Nation, we have witnessed, with grave horror, mass shooters armed with assault rifles gun down Americans in churches, in synagogues, in concert venues, and in shopping centers. Amid our grief and anguish, Americans have come together to call on their leaders to not let this senseless, heart-wrenching violence continue unabated. They are calling on us to do something. We can no longer accept these horrific shootings as the status quo.

In my hometown of Albuquerque, just last Thursday night, five people,

including three teenagers, were shot to death in multiple shootings across our city, and six others were wounded. While police are still investigating these senseless acts of violence, no one can tell me that this level of gun violence is somehow acceptable.

There are things we can do. There is no doubt that this debate brings up very emotional and difficult questions, and there are large challenges we need to grapple with that are fueling gun violence in America. Many of the most horrific acts of violence and terror that we have witnessed have been inspired by hateful ideologies, by racist bigotry, and by divisive rhetoric. But we need to acknowledge that they were carried out with deadly weapons, weapons that we are clearly not doing enough to keep out of the hands of those who would seek to cause us harm.

We may not all agree on what steps should be taken at the Federal level to address this crisis, but can we at least agree that something needs to be done to combat the epidemic of gun violence in this country?

We need to listen to our Nation's students and mothers who are calling for us to come together on the things we can agree on. At the very least, that includes universal background checks. There is bipartisan legislation on background checks that passed out of the House and is sitting on the majority leader's desk right now. Let's vote on that bill.

Someone who can't pass a background check should not be allowed to purchase a firearm. We shouldn't be putting guns in the hands of those convicted of domestic violence or sexual assault who continue to be a threat to their victims. Someone who has been found by family and friends to be a danger to themselves and their community should not be in possession of a deadly firearm. If our government has put someone on a no-fly list because of the risk that they pose, we should not allow that potential terrorist to buy a gun. I can't, frankly, understand how any of that is controversial.

The Senate majority is refusing to act. They are hoping that if they hide long enough—if they hide long enough—this will just blow over. Can we at least agree that more public health and scientific research is needed on this gun violence epidemic?

All of us in some way are grasping for answers on our Nation's unparalleled violence, but even funding research into gun violence is being vetoed by the NRA. It is hard to believe that Senate Republicans could find a way to be against so many commonsense solutions. Nearly every solution is being rejected. The overwhelming majority of Americans, including gun owners like me, agree that Congress needs to finally take these real steps to address gun violence.

Look, this is not an issue I take lightly. Like many Americans, I am a gun owner, but with that privilege should come a great deal of responsibility. I am teaching my two sons how to responsibly use firearms. In fact, when our family sits down to a meal that includes red meat, it is almost always from the wild game we have harvested.

I think you will find, when you talk to most gun owners and most sportsmen, they, more than anyone, know how much we need to respect the deadly force inherent in these tools. Most agree we should make sure that firearms are used responsibly and safely.

Those of us in Congress should never hide behind phony arguments that use fear to intimidate us away from action. Americans are desperate for us to act.

I join my Democratic colleagues once again in calling upon Majority Leader MCCONNELL and President Trump: Enough is enough. It is long past time to do something and to stop hiding. It is long past time for us to finally turn our Nation's grief and frustration into meaningful action to protect our kids and our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I rise to join my colleague Senator HEINRICH and others who have come before. I am calling on Senator MCCONNELL to act now to address the gun crisis in our country.

Every day that the Senate Republican leaders refuse to act, they are making a choice to be complicit as more lives continue to be lost. People across my State and the country want to see action, and they are tired of waiting for it.

I have met with countless families across New York who have lost their children, spouses, friends, community members, and neighbors to gun violence. I have met people who have survived mass shootings and people who live every single day with the threat of gun violence in their neighborhoods. I have heard their stories and seen how their lives have been torn apart by gun violence. Today I want to tell some of those stories to you.

Robert Gaafar, one of my constituents from Long Island and a father of young children, was at the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas for work. He heard loud popping noises and soon realized they weren't coming from the performance on stage but from a gun. As the shooter fired round after round, Robert hid behind a metal vending machine for protection. The bullets being fired around him were so powerful he could actually feel the shock waves. He said that he would never forget the silence of 20,000 people at a concert or the horrific screams of grown men and women he could hear as the gunman reloaded. He was lucky. He survived. But 58 people did not, and many more were injured.

Another New Yorker, Trenelle Gabay, had to make the unthinkable decision to take her husband off of life support after he was shot in the crossfire of two rival gangs at a community festival in Brooklyn. He was just an innocent bystander, and, ironically, he was an attorney for the State who helped draft the NY SAFE Act, which set a precedent for one of the strongest gun laws in the country. He was not immune from gun violence himself. As Trenelle told it, her husband's life and bright light were extinguished by guns.

At the trial, Trenelle heard a criminal testify about how easy it was for him to purchase a gun and traffic it from Georgia to New York. It should not be this easy for criminals to get access to dangerous weapons. It should not be so easy for lives to be taken so senselessly.

One mother I met in New York, Jackie Rowe-Adams, lost not one but two sons to gun violence. One of her sons was shot when he was 17 years old outside of a bodega in Harlem. The reason? Two men with a gun believed that her son was staring at them, so they killed him.

Ms. Rowe-Adams lost her second son to gun violence during a robbery outside of her apartment. The boy who shot him was only 13 years old. He should never have had access to a gun. Imagine the horror of being a mother and losing two of your sons to gun violence.

Then there is another one of my constituents, Edwin Vargas. His 16-year-old son Luis was killed on Halloween when an unknown gunman decided to fire his weapon into the crowd in a neighborhood in the Bronx. The gunman was irritated by a group of teenagers who were throwing eggs in his neighborhood, so he began to randomly shoot into the crowd. The gunman hit three innocent bystanders, including Luis. Luis was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

These are the tragic and heartwrenching stories that New Yorkers have shared with me. They are by no means unique. In every State around the country, there are too many stories just like these. The reality is that mass shootings can and have happened in every corner of this country in all types of places.

Gun violence is becoming the new normal in America. Certainly it has happened in Arizona. We do not have to live in a country where mass shootings occur in our schools, our houses of worships, our movie theaters, our playgrounds, our stores, our community gatherings, at festivals, at concerts, at nightclubs, and at Congress on your corner.

Madam President, I am speaking to you and to every other Republican in this Chamber. We all have a responsibility to do the right thing and stand up to the NRA and stand up to the greed and corruption that is in this country today that makes every decision about whether we have a vote on commonsense gun reform.

I can poll your State for you. I can ask every NRA member in America: Do you support universal background checks, banning large magazines, military-style weapons? Leave them in the

hands of military members, not someone who walks into a store and buys them because he wants to shoot large numbers of people in minutes and seconds. That is what is happening in America today.

I would like you to look up because I have to say this is something all of us should be caring about, especially from Arizona, where my dear friend Gabby Giffords was shot for doing her job and a young girl showing up for ''Congress on Your Corner'' to meet her Congresswoman died. It is not OK. The time for turning a blind eye is over.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Thank you for the recognition, Madam President.

Last month, on August 22, an 86-year-old grandmother, born and raised in my hometown of Santa Fe, NM, was gunned down while she was shopping at Walmart in El Paso by a White supremacist with an AK–47 style assault weapon. The gunman said he ''wanted to shoot as many Mexicans as possible.'' The shooter told police he had purchased 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

Less than 24 hours later, it took the shooter in Dayton, OH, only 32 seconds to kill 10 people and wound 27 others with his .223-caliber, high-capacity rifle with 100-round drum magazines. Had the Dayton police not responded immediately, the numbers of dead and injured in the crowded Dayton downtown area could have been exponentially higher.

On August 31, in Odessa, TX, a shooter killed 7 and injured 25, including a 17-month-old girl, who was shot in the face. The shooter had failed a background check in 2014 because a court had found he was mentally unfit to own a gun. He purchased his AR–15 style weapon in a private gun sale, which is not subject to a background check.

Assault rifles, often paired with high-capacity magazines, were used to slaughter innocents at Sandy Hook, Las Vegas, Aurora, Orlando, San Bernardino, the Sutherland Springs church, and the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been 10,552 gun-related deaths this year. That includes 2,681 children and teens. Mass shootings number 300. That is more than one mass shooting every day of this year.

The American people support commonsense gun safety legislation in overwhelming numbers. Recent polls confirm that 90 percent or more registered voters support background checks for all gun sales—90 percent. Think about that. The American people support a ban on high-capacity magazines. They support a ban on assault weapons. They support keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

People all across the country are worried about their communities, their schools, their churches, and their children. They are worried that they will be caught in the next mass shooting, that their community will be the next El Paso, the next Sandy Hook, or the next Aztec.

When I was in school, we had safety drills in the event of a nuclear strike from the Soviet Union. Children now have safety drills in the event of a shooter from within our own communities.

The American people are demanding that Congress take action on this national crisis. After El Paso and Dayton, many of us implored Leader MCCONNELL to call us back into session to vote on the gun safety bills sitting on his desk gathering dust. Leader MCCONNELL says he will only bring bills before the Senate that the President will sign.

We are the legislative body. We are sent here by our constituents to pass laws, to do their will, to protect their welfare. We do not depend on the President to pass gun safety legislation. We do not have to wait for him while the NRA lobbyists try to wear him down. He can take his cues from us for a change. We are not his lapdogs. Protecting our communities, schools, and churches cannot wait, cannot be relegated to the leader's legislative graveyard. Too many lives have been lost, and too many lives will be lost if we don't act.

The fact is, too many Republican elected officials are beholden to the scandal-ridden National Rifle Association. The NRA no longer even represents gun owners; it represents the gun industry. Now we know it also represents dark campaign spending and internal corruption.

There is no mystery why the Republicans refuse to take up gun safety legislation that Americans overwhelmingly support. The NRA has poured millions into campaign coffers, and they use that money to intimidate Members of Congress into opposing bills with 90 percent support nationally. This is yet one more example of why we need to overturn Citizens United and enact comprehensive finance reform. Our Democratic institutions are not representing the people.

We need to pass the bills on Leader MCCONNELL's desk, but we should not stop there. We also must halt the rise of White nationalism and White supremacy in our country. Hateful views have fueled too many of these tragedies—the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC; the Tree of Life synagogue; and in El Paso.

The El Paso shooter's fear of ''the Hispanic invasion of Texas'' too closely echoes the President's repeated warnings of an ''invasion'' at our southern border. The shooter's anti-immigrant screed rings of the President's attacks on immigrants as criminals and rapists who need to be kept out of our country by a border wall. Las Cruces, NM, is only 45 minutes from El Paso. El Paso is like a sibling to us. New Mexico, like El Paso, takes great pride in our diversity. Our diversity does not divide us. It defines us. It unifies us. The President's anti-immigrant, nativist rhetoric is not only deeply offensive to New Mexicans, it also fuels the worst elements of our society—elements that now have ready access to military-style weapons.

The FBI Director recently reported to Congress that the Bureau had arrested almost as many domestic terrorists as foreign terrorists this year. He said most of the racially motivated domestic terrorism cases were likely connected to White supremacy.

It is up to this body to stand up to the President's anti-immigrant and racist rhetoric and unequivocally affirm this Nation's values—equality, tolerance, and inclusiveness. It is up to this body to stand up to the NRA and stand with the American people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, last month, over 50 Americans were killed in mass shootings in this country while we were on the August recess when we should have been here doing our job. One hundred Americans are killed every day from gun violence. There are 100 desks in this room. There are 100 chairs by those desks. And if these were the Americans killed by gun violence, they would add up to every single desk that is in this room. Yet the majority leader didn't bring us back during the August recess. He didn't say we should cancel our vacation and come back to work for the American people. He hasn't put a bill on the floor or given an opportunity for anybody else to put a bill on the floor now that we have been back in session for the last 2 weeks.

In the last 18 months, Colorado alone has lost 885 people to gun violence. That is a record in my State.

The House of Representatives has done their job. I think more than 200 days ago, they passed background checks over there, and we haven't even taken them up over here. This isn't a matter of bringing up the bill and voting on the bill; we can't even get the bill to the floor. For 200 days, we haven't been able to bring the bill to the floor. Why? Because the majority leader of the United States of America says that he is only going to bring gun legislation to the floor if he knows what the President will sign. He is not capable, as the majority leader of the United States, to put an amendment on the floor for an up-or-down vote even when that amendment passed the House of Representatives 200 days ago and 96 percent of the American people support it. Ninety-six percent of the American people support it.

Why can't he bring it to the floor? He says that only if the President tells him that he will sign it will he bring it to the floor. We all know how hard it is for the President to make up his mind about anything—particularly about guns when he has one thing to say right after a tragedy has happened, and then 2 days later, after he meets with the NRA, he is singing from a completely different song sheet.

Here is what MITCH MCCONNELL said in 2014:

> The Senate should be setting national priorities, not simply waiting on the White House to do it for us.

I wholeheartedly agree with that sentiment. This is an independent branch of government. The 100 people sitting in this room have been sent here to represent the people who voted for us and the people who didn't vote for us. And 96 percent of them say they want background checks on guns, but we can't even have a vote.

I would like to see a vote just so I could see who in this Chamber wants to vote against background checks. I think it would be amazing for the American people to learn that, instead of just hiding behind this myth that the President of the United States gets to decide what comes to the floor. He is not the majority leader. There is one person in America who gets to decide what comes to this floor—one person in America—and that is the majority leader, MITCH MCCONNELL from Kentucky. It is not Donald Trump. He knew that in 2014, and he knows it today. But the NRA is too scared to see this thing come to the floor because they know that it will pass and that they will lose as a result of that. It is long past time for us to beat the NRA on this issue.

I know my colleague from Washington State is here, so I will not go on for too long, but if I could, I will just take a couple of minutes.

I am also from a Western State, the State of Colorado, and 20 years ago, we had one of the very first school shootings in this country. It was at Columbine High School. In the wake of that, we passed background checks. We passed the same bill that MITCH MCCONNELL will not bring to the floor—the same bill almost 20 years ago.

My oldest daughter is 20 years old. She was born right after Columbine. Our two other daughters are 19 and 15. Like so many children across this country, they have grown up thinking that going to school is unsafe, that they could be shot at school. They have had to do drills that we never had to do when we were kids—never had to do. They have the knowledge that the U.S. Congress doesn't care about them because for 20 years we have done nothing.

In Colorado—a Western State, a Second Amendment State—we passed these background checks. As a result, every year, 2 or 3 percent of the people who come to buy a gun can't buy a gun because they are murderers or they are rapists or they are domestic abusers. They are people who shouldn't have a gun. I would like to see anybody come to this floor and tell me why Colorado would be safer if we didn't have those background checks; why we would be safer if murderers got guns and rapists got guns and domestic abusers got guns. They can't come here and do it.

They are hiding from the vote, and it is their responsibility to vote. There is only one person in America who can hold that vote, and that is MITCH MCCONNELL. I can tell you this: It is not because we are too busy around here. We were in session last week for 27 hours. That is not even a French workweek. That is pitiful—pitiful—27 hours. Do you know how many amendments we have considered in the 9 months that we have been here this year? We have considered 18. That is two amendments a month. We have passed four amendments in this broken place. It is pitiful.

Before he became majority leader, MITCH MCCONNELL came down here and said that we were going to work on Fridays, that we were going to have regular order. We had a 27-hour workweek. I can tell you this: It is not because we are considering the election protection legislation, which is one of the bipartisan bills the Senators in this Chamber want to vote on to respond to the Russian attack on our democracy. It is not because we are too busy with those bills. We are doing nothing here except for confirming judges for Donald Trump.

I think I speak for my colleagues when I say I am willing to work more than 27 hours. I am willing to work a French workweek or a U.S. workweek if it means we could actually have votes on amendments that 96 percent of the American people support.

I close by saying there is no one else to do this job but us. The House has done its job. Donald Trump can't make up his mind about anything. Maybe he would like us to send him the background checks to help him make up his mind about what he can do for the American people, but I can tell you this: Our kids can't do this. They are too busy. They are in school. They are trying to learn reading and math. They should not be asked to try to figure out how to stop these mass shootings in this country or what it would look like to have a representative body of the United States actually represent the people who sent us here instead of sitting around in our offices, trying to avoid hard votes. How is it a hard vote when 9 out of 10 Americans support it? It is only a hard vote because the NRA is taking names and watching this.

I say to my colleagues: We would be so much better off, Democrats and Republicans, with our ripping this bandaid off and getting on with the business that the American people sent us here to do. MITCH MCCONNELL should put on this floor these background checks.

I thank my colleagues for their patience.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I join my colleagues on the floor tonight.

I thank the Senator from Colorado for an articulate and very passionate speech about the reasons the U.S. Senate should be voting on sensible gun laws.

That is what we are really here to say tonight—that it is past time we take action and that we in the U.S. Senate should let the American people know where Members of the U.S. Senate stand on these important issues.

Too many Americans have been impacted by gun violence, and too many places have been the sites of these attacks, whether they be churches, synagogues, or mosques or whether they be our schoolchildren or people just going about their everyday lives with their shopping, going to a concert, or even watching a movie. Too many families and friends are left waiting, trying to understand whether their loved ones are going to return home, and too many have been devastated to find out that their loved ones aren't coming back.

It is time that we act here in the U.S. Senate and support legislation that we know the American people support. In my home State, there are places like the Seattle Pacific University and the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, Freeman High School outside of Spokane, Marysville Pilchuck High School, the Burlington shopping mall in Skagit County, and White Swan. All of these communities have taught us that we need to act. It is past time for us to act here.

The good news is that the people of Washington State did act. Those people rose up and helped to support legislative initiatives that went to a vote of the people. Not only have they been successfully passed, but they are showing successful results.

In the State of Washington, we passed universal background checks by a popular vote in 2014, and we saw amazing results in just the first 14 months. They helped to prevent over 50 gun sales to felons. My colleague from Colorado mentioned a similar thing in his State. And after closing private sale loopholes, it resulted in 144 denials to those with expanded background checks. It does mean that the people of Washington State are at least safer in this regard because we have more tools in our toolbox with which to deal with this.

I also want people to understand that we passed a law to allow extreme risk protection orders. That was passed in 2016 with nearly 70 percent of Washington State voters helping and voting in that election. What we saw was that in a State where we probably have 27 percent gun ownership, we saw in 32 out of 39 counties people supporting this measure to say that people who pose an extreme risk should not be allowed to get their hands on a gun. This

was supported in rural communities, suburban communities, and urban communities.

In front of the Senate Judiciary Committee last year, King County Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Kimberly Wyatt testified. She called this measure a ''critical, evidence-based, harm reduction tool.'' Now, how does that sound so threatening—a tool that law enforcement is telling us is critical and evidence-based that is going to help us to reduce harm to our fellow citizens?

Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Kimberly Wyatt told a story of a doctor who contacted police because a patient who had wanted to obtain a concealed weapon permit had repeatedly talked about making a hit list and ''doing harm to people.'' In using the extreme risk protection order, we are allowed to help to keep these people from getting their hands on gun and doing harm to themselves and to fellow citizens.

These measures supported in my State are initiatives by the people. As I said, they are supported by wide majorities across all geographic areas of our State. Yet we can't find out here in the U.S. Senate how our Senate colleagues would vote on these very important measures.

I hope those on the other side of the aisle will consider these. We will go State by State if necessary. We will get the people involved in passing these laws. Why? It is that they know they are common sense, and they work, and we want to keep the public safe. We know that we want to have these tools so law enforcement and others can do their jobs. It is long overdue to have a vote in the U.S. Senate on these issues, and I hope our colleagues will give us that opportunity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I rise to echo the sentiments of the Senator from Washington State. She has absolutely articulated the reasons this Senate should just stop what it is doing and bring these bills to the floor for a vote so we can begin to make it more difficult for the wrong people to be able to buy guns in our country. We have no background checks, no ability to identify who they are.

This debate is one that should have already taken place in August after what happened in El Paso and after what happened in Dayton. We should have had the debate out here on the Senate floor. The House has already passed legislation that deals with the background checks of any person who wants to buy a gun in our country. That is the least we should be able to do.

By the way, it polls out at 89 percent. There aren't many issues that poll out at 89 percent. The reason it does is that the country is horrified by what it is seeing day after day on its televisions as the carnage continues to rise, as the hemorrhaging of communities continues unabated across our country.

The NRA retains a vice-like grip on the Senate of the United States. It is almost as though it is able to put a lock on these doors—courtesy of the Republican leadership—so that no bill can come down here into the well of the Senate to be debated on background checks. The NRA just refuses to allow those bills to come out here. So we have no debates. We have no votes. We have no accountability. This is the status of the U.S. Senate in September of 2019 as we see an epidemic of violence across our country.

Bring those bills onto the floor, Republican Party. Forget the money from the NRA. Forget all of its spending. Let us not put a price on the lives of 34,000 Americans who died just last year on top of the lives of those who died the year before and the year before and those who will be part of a preventable epidemic in our country next year and the year after and the year after into the future.

After we finish debating background checks, we should then have a debate on military-style assault weapons and whether they should be sold in our country and a debate on high-capacity magazines and whether they should be sold in our country. Those were the weapons that were used in Dayton. Those were the weapons that were used in El Paso. Let's have a debate here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Let's have people have to be made accountable for allowing these dangerous weapons that belong on battlefields but not on the streets of our country. In fact, when they are on the streets of our country, they turn our streets into battlegrounds, whereby the criminal—whereby the bad person—has a weapon, in many instances, that is more powerful than that of the police. That is just plain wrong. We can do something about it if the Senate allows these doors to open, if the Republicans allow this debate to take place. Of course, it will not because the NRA controls access to the floor of this Senate.

Then let's have a debate on the loopholes that allow abusers—domestic abusers and terrorists—to be able to purchase guns in the United States. Let's have that debate here on the floor of the Senate.

Let's have people have to vote on whether or not they want domestic abusers to be able to purchase guns in our country or if they should be able to keep their guns if they have already been identified by the local police as being a danger because they are domestic abusers, and the same thing is true for safeguards against terrorists purchasing weapons.

And when are we going to have the debate on research at the Centers for Disease Control on the causes of gun violence in our country?

I have introduced that bill for 10 years to have that research done. The House has now moved legislation to deal with that issue, but over here, so far, these doors are locked. That legislation cannot make it to the well of the Senate so that we can have a debate.

The NRA guards these doors. The NRA will not give permission to have a debate on whether or not we do research on gun violence in our country. What are the causes? Why are we the highest among industrialized countries? What is it that differentiates us from other countries in the world?

So for me, I say it is time for us on this floor to ensure that NRA stands for not relevant anymore in American politics, in senatorial politics, and that the doors are open, that the legislation can come down, and that we can have a full debate here on the Senate floor after all that we have learned in these last weeks and months and years about how unnecessarily easy it is for people to be able to purchase these weapons.

This is a debate that the American people want, and we are either going to have that debate in the course of regular Senate business or we are going to have it next year in the Presidential and House and Senate races all across our country, because this issue now is completely changed in terms of how the public views it except among the Republican leadership in our country.

So if that is how they want it, then, just be sure that young people especially are outraged across our country. They are outraged that we don't debate climate change in the well of the Senate. They are outraged that we don't debate gun safety legislation in the Senate.

So there is a kind of a ''sow the wind, reap the whirlwind'' political consequence that is going to occur, and all I can say is that we can hope and pray that the Senate Republican leadership allows for this debate and does not wait for Donald Trump to give them permission to have this debate. There shouldn't have to be a complete and total excision of senatorial prerogatives to another branch of government. We should be able to do this ourselves—the Senate.

This issue goes right to the core of the safety of every family in our country, and if we do it, I actually think that almost every Senator here will be praised for ensuring that we have background checks. That is what the polling says.

If we don't, then perhaps a small handful of Republican Senators will be praised by the NRA, but it will be at a terrible price in terms of the lives that are lost.

In Massachusetts, we have the lowest gun fatality rate in the country. If Massachusetts' laws were the laws for the whole country, 34,000 people would not have died last year, but only 6,000 people would have died.

And what is our key law? If you want to buy a gun and get a license in Massachusetts, you have to go into the police station and talk to the police chief. We have 351 cities and towns. That is how you get a gun license. It is the police.

So we know how simple it is to have a background check to make sure that we know who is buying these guns. Down in Parkland, the home of that young man had been visited over and over and over by the police, but he didn't have to go to the police to get a license. He got right around that system.

Who knows you best? The local police do. We don't want to keep guns out of the hands of those who should be able to purchase them—hunters and others—but you do want the police to be involved. You do want background checks to make sure that the wrong people can't buy them. We know that is at the heart of this problem.

So for me, this is an absolute necessity for the Senate to have to have dealt with before the end of this session. It would be historically inexcusable for us to have avoided having that debate here.

I just say that enough is enough. Let's just end business as usual. Let's put in place the process by which this Senate—this greatest deliberative body in the world—reclaims the reputation that it has lost, and let's debate gun safety legislation here on the floor of the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am here after talking to my good friend Fred Guttenberg, who visited my office just minutes ago to talk about what we are doing here on the floor of the Senate—what we are failing to do, more precisely, and what we have an obligation to do at this moment in history.

Fred Guttenberg lost his precious, beautiful daughter Jamie in Parkland at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in a tragedy that we all recall—at least I do—as though it happened yesterday.

Fred Guttenberg has made it his life's mission now, in his daughter's memory, to fight for commonsense steps to save other children from that kind of violence and other parents from all of our worst nightmare—I say that as a father of four.

But Fred Guttenberg, being the enormously hopeful, energetic, and positive person that he is, talked to me about Florida's extreme risk protection order statute—or, as it is known there, red flag statute—and about how it is working to save lives and how it has been used more than 2,000 times since it was passed barely a year ago and how it, in fact, worked most recently in the case of a young man who made threats online with a stash of firearms in his home that were turned over to law enforcement voluntarily when they came to his home. They were turned over voluntarily by his parents.

They didn't need to use the warrant because his parents knew that a risk warrant was telling them something they already knew, which is that their son was dangerous and that firearms in that home posed a clear and present and urgent threat of another Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy.

So using that red flag or emergency risk protection order statute was actually unnecessary there, but it provided the police and law enforcement with a means to an end, and it has been used more than 2,000 times.

In fact, in our Judiciary Committee, a nominee for the Southern District of Florida, who is now a sitting State court judge, related to us how he has applied this statute. What he said to us is it works. It saves lives. It prevents suicides. It helps stop domestic violence that can lead to fatalities. These laws work.

These laws work to save lives, as we have seen in Connecticut, where proudly we have led the Nation in adopting a comprehensive set of gun violence prevention laws. The experience of Connecticut, the empirical evidence, the facts on the ground, the testimony of law enforcement all tell us these laws work. It isn't just one law. There is no single panacea. There is no one solution. It is a comprehensive set of commonsense measures.

The opponents of these measures will point to one tragedy or another that could not have been prevented by one law or another, and that is the reason that it has to be comprehensive, and it will never prevent all of the tragedy. There will still be gun deaths in this country, but these laws work to save lives.

And as Fred and I said to each other, if one life has been saved in the State of Florida by its emergency risk protection order statute, it was worth doing. If one daughter of one potentially grieving parent was saved, it was worth doing.

But it is many more than one life that will be saved if we adopt the measures that are before us. Ideally, H.R. 8, universal background checks that has come to us from the House, the closing of the Charleston loophole, which I have long championed and I have introduced as a separate measure here, emergency risk protection order or red flag statutes that my colleague and I, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, have worked on, negotiated over months and now is on the verge of introduction—we know that the task before us is to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people, to prevent people who will kill or injure themselves or others from having those firearms.

The universal background check goal is to enforce a statute that was adopted many years ago that keeps guns out of the hands of specific people who are dangerous because they are convicted felons or drug addicts or fall into other categories, keeps guns out of the hands of dangerous people before they are hurt.

An extreme risk protection order statute keeps guns out of the hands of people who, like the shooter in Parkland, as my colleague Senator GRAHAM says, all but took out an ad in the newspaper saying he was going to kill people—as this young man did in Coral Springs, when he went on the internet.

Under our statute, there is complete due process because not only must a statutory standard of proof be met for the warrant—the risk warrant, much like an arrest warrant or a search warrant—but then, in a subsequent hearing within a week or 2 or 3 weeks under other jurisdictions, there is a right to a hearing, and the burden of proof is even higher for that gun to be kept away. Then the order itself lasts for a specific period of time.

There are guarantees of due process here. Every one of these proposals—universal background checks and extreme risk protection orders—is within the Heller decision, consistent with the Second Amendment. We respect the Second Amendment. It is the law of the land, but they can help save lives.

That is why 90 percent of the American people support universal background checks, and they support extreme risk protection order laws. They know lives can be saved if guns are kept out of the hands of dangerous people.

These stories are so common and so tragic:

A young man exhibits disturbing behavior. He is clearly troubled. His friends, relatives, teachers, even law enforcement are aware of his hateful rants. He posts pro-Nazi photos online. We know the end of this story too. It is the story of Dakota Reed that started like so many others—Charleston, Pittsburgh, Orlando, Dayton, El Paso. He posted on November 11, 2018: ''I'm shooting for 30 Jews.'' Except here is how that story ended: When this young man threatened an anti-Semitism-fueled massacre, law enforcement was granted an extreme risk protection order. Dakota Reed was online, threatening to kill people, and law enforcement seized his 12 firearms.

For so long, we have been told there is nothing that can be done, but this one example, like the young man in Coral Springs, shows there are effective solutions. These laws work.

As so many Americans know, there is no shortage of ideas to stop preventable gun violence. There is only a shortage of courage. There is only a dearth of will.

For too long, Congress has been complicit. Congress has blood on its hands if it continues to fail in meeting this basic responsibility to keep Americans safer than they are now.

Almost every community has been affected by this national epidemic of gun violence. Massacres in El Paso and Dayton within a 24-hour period left 31 dead. Before Congress returned from its recess, a shooter in Odessa, TX, killed another seven. Communities are forever changed by these events. The fear that is engendered and the trauma of these shootings affects a community and tears it apart in ways that take years to recover from it.

Like my colleagues from Connecticut in the House and in the Senate, I will

live forever with the sights and sounds of that day in Sandy Hook, the cries of grief in that afternoon and afterward, when 26 beautiful people—6 great educators and 20 young children—were killed. I was at the firehouse where parents went to find out if their children were dead or alive. They found out by waiting as the children arrived—but not all of the children. That is how the parents who lost their children found out.

Those anguished cries, the sobbing, the grief have been repeated 2,226 times since in mass shootings. They have left 2,000 communities grieving, but more than those mass shootings, there are the deaths—every day, 90 deaths; 36,000 Americans killed by gun violence every year. That is about 100 every day, and gun deaths are on the rise, not reducing. There were 39,773 gun deaths for 2017, the most recent year for which it is available. That is not even counting the physically wounded, those who escaped mass shootings physically unscathed but with lifelong mental scars, and the thousands of friends and family members of victims and near-victims whose lives are forever altered by these incidents of gun violence.

Despite this unconscionable loss of life, Congress has done nothing, complicit in the mass shootings but also in the suicides and domestic violence.

Lori Jackson's death in Connecticut was at the hand of her estranged husband. Her children were traumatized losing their mother, and her parents became active advocates—courageous and strong advocates for a change in the law.

We have an obligation to act regardless of whatever the President says or does. There is nothing in the Constitution that says the U.S. Senate can act only if the President commits to signing some law. There is nothing in the Constitution that says we can act only if the President endorses a specific measure. We have that duty, independent of the President. We have a constitutional duty. We have already ceded too much of our power in too many areas. We cannot, we need not, we must not cede that independent obligation we have to act and act now.

Medical research tells us that 80 percent of the perpetrators of mass violence exhibit clear signs that they are going to carry out an attack, often including explicit threats of violence. The Parkland shooter is one of the latest examples. In all of those jurisdictions that have extreme risk protection order statutes, the experience is that they work.

I have introduced Jamie's Law that would provide for background checks on ammunition purchases—there should be universal background checks on purchases—in honor of Fred Guttenberg's daughter, Jaime. I have supported a ghost gun statute that would take account of the need to act on weapons that are literally made in people's homes using kits like the one used by the Rancho Tehama gunman. They are referred to as ''ghost guns'' because they possess no serial number or any kind of traceable identification or registration. One scholar estimates that at least hundreds of thousands of unmarked receivers already have been sold in the United States.

Of course, we need an assault weapons ban. There are some weapons that no one should ever be able to use as they were in El Paso, Dayton, Las Vegas, Parkland, Orlando, Newtown, Aurora, Columbine. These tragedies alone account for 211 people lost to gun violence.

Assault weapons are literally weapons of war. Assault-style weapons can fire hundreds of rounds in a minute, and until recently they could be converted to automatic weapons. A recent study found that when assault-style weapons are used with high-capacity magazines, 155,000 more people are shot and 47 percent more are killed than in other instances.

Earlier this year, I was pleased to join dozens of my colleagues in introducing the Assault Weapons Ban of 2019, making the sale, manufacture, transport, and importation of 205 specific military-style assault weapons, by name as well as by a number of features and modifications, illegal—banned under our law.

I was pleased, also with my colleague CHRIS MURPHY, to introduce a safe storage law named after Ethan Song of Guilford, CT, who was killed while playing with a weapon in his friend's home. This legislation would enact Federal requirements for safe storage, penalties for violators, and a grant program to help States establish their own safe storage law.

The SECURE Firearms Storage Act would require firearms importers, manufacturers, and dealers to safely store their inventory and, as well, individual gun owners to use standards that in fact have been endorsed by the NRA. Safely securing firearms prevents theft and unintended use of lawfully acquired and possessed owned guns.

In 2016, alone, 238,000 firearms were reported stolen in the United States. These kinds of laws are championed by Michael and Kristin Song because they know these laws work. Their child, their young son, was accidentally killed by a gun stored in a friend's closet, accessible to those two teens without any impediment. In many cases, including Sandy Hook, safe gun storage could have prevented mountains of grief and heartache and a river of tears. Gun owners who fail to safely store or secure their firearms must be held accountable, as this law would do in honor of Ethan Song.

Of course, high-capacity magazines—which is to say magazines that can fire more than 10 rounds—to help stop mass shootings should be banned as well.

There are other measures—and my colleagues have talked about them—to keep gun dealers honest, to prevent hate crimes, to stop domestic and gender-based violence, to require development of smart gun technology. That is why also, on smart gun technology, with Senator MURPHY, I introduced the SAFETY Act, which would encourage manufactures to develop and consumers to purchase smart gun technology.

Smart gun technology is actually one that I championed as attorney general. A number of gun manufacturers—at least one agreed to implement it, and he was nearly drummed out of business by other gun manufacturers at the time.

The firearm industry and responsible gun owners should already be embracing innovations that have been developed, inventions that are feasible, smart gun technology that has already created locks that prevent accidental shootings and fingerprint scans that can disable firearms for anyone but their lawful owners. We need to harness the power of American innovation and create smarter, safer firearms.

There is no reason to wait another day before passing these laws. We know there is a political movement that is gaining strength from groups like Moms Demand Action, Everytown for Gun Safety, Students Demand Action, Brady, Giffords, the Coalition Against Gun Violence, the Connecticut Coalition, the New Town Action Alliance, and Sandy Hook Promise. So many of these organizations are coming together to create a seismic change, a tectonic groundswell of support. That is the reason we are here tonight and the reason the President is even talking about a measure or set of measures that will help prevent gun violence.

We can do this. We can pass this measure. The President can stand up to the gun lobby and the NRA. The Republican leadership has it within their power to seize this moment made possible by the American public expecting and demanding that we act and saying to us: Enough is enough. Truly, enough is enough.

On December 14, 2012, I pledged that I would do everything I could do to make sure no more parents have to bury their children, as did those courageous and strong families in Newtown who have come to us asking for action, as have survivors and loved ones from countless other families. No other parent should have to bury children as a result of preventable gun violence. I have fought as long and as hard as I know how, and I will continue because we are not going away. We are not giving up. Nothing could persuade me to break that pledge.

I have been proud to stand with my colleague CHRIS MURPHY in our partnership as a team that has brought together so many of our colleagues who are speaking tonight. The only question before us now is, How long will it take? How many more children and lives will be lost? How many more communities have to be added to that dreaded list of mass shootings? How many more suicides, including veteran

suicides—20 every day, not all from gun violence but many of them due to firearms. How many more grieving families? How many more lives lost needlessly and senselessly? I thank my colleagues for being here tonight. We all hope the answer is fewer. We all hope that lives will be saved, as many lives as possible, as quickly as possible. That is why I have been willing to engage in discussions with the White House, as well as with my colleagues, along with my colleague CHRIS MURPHY and others who are here—Senator MANCHIN and Senator TOOMEY. That is why we have spared no effort and left no stone unturned.

How many more days will go by before we fulfill our duty? The answer really should be ''none.'' We all have an obligation to fulfill our constitutional duty as a Congress to act—whether or not the President does. But to the President and to the Republican leadership, my message is this: Please, please work it out. Please lead. Lead or get out of the way. Please lead or at least give us a vote on H.R. 8, on universal background checks, on emergency risk protection, on commonsense steps that we know work. These measures work. They save lives.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, our country demands that we take action to confront the crisis of gun violence. One hundred people die from gun violence in our country every single day. If 100 people died every day because of any other single cause, even Republicans would call it an epidemic and demand that we do something about it.

Think about it. The lives of 100 men, women, and children are cut tragically short by someone using a firearm every single day in our country. Some of them are killed sitting in church, others while shopping for school supplies, and others while sitting in their classrooms. Some are targeted because they are Latino, Jewish, Muslim, Black, gay, or transgender. Some are killed for reasons we will never know.

Victims of gun violence come from all walks of life and different circumstances, but they were all struck down by someone with a firearm—firearms which in many cases were purchased legally because we have gaping loopholes in our gun safety laws; firearms which, even when purchased legally, too often end up in the hands of someone who has absolutely no business owning a gun.

There are a lot of steps Congress can take—and my colleague just articulated some of them—to combat the crisis of gun violence in our country. We can ban assault weapons. We can ban high-capacity magazines. We can look at requiring gun licensing at the national level.

Each of these steps would make a major difference in combating gun violence, but I acknowledge that they would be controversial and are unlikely to pass, to become law, in the current Congress. But there is one step the Senate can take right now to confront the gun violence epidemic in our country. The Senate can take up and pass H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, which passed the House nearly 7 months ago.

This legislation passed with a strong bipartisan vote to close the loopholes in our background check system. It would require checks not just for firearms purchased from licensed dealers but also from unlicensed individuals at gun shows, between friends, and between most unrelated people. Some people say that will not do much and that it will just be a drop in the bucket, but when that bucket is overflowing, as it is now, with the blood of innocent people, anything we do will help curb this epidemic.

At a time when our country is deeply divided on so many issues, it is noteworthy that 90 percent of Americans support universal background checks—90 percent. The American public knows a sensible gun safety bill when they see one, even if too many Members of Congress remain blind.

Sensible gun safety laws work. I know that because Hawaii, which has some of the most restrictive gun laws on the books, is, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the State with the lowest rate of death by firearms in the Nation. Anyone in Hawaii wanting to buy a gun, whether from a licensed dealer or private seller, must apply for a permit in their county, and they cannot receive a permit unless they pass a background check. The permit applicant has to sign a waiver allowing the county to access their mental health records, and, of course, there is a check of the Federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS. If they fail a background check, they can't purchase a gun. They are reported to law enforcement and prosecuting officials in the State in case they try again to purchase a gun.

Being this careful about who can own a gun has resulted in Hawaii being the most gun-safe State in the country. In Hawaii, the CDC reported 2.5 firearm deaths per 100,000 people for 2017, the most recently available data. Compare that to Texas, with 12.4 deaths per 100,000; or Kentucky, with 16.2 deaths; or, sadly, Alabama, with 22.9 deaths per 100,000 people. Of course, there are many factors at play in these statistics, but we can't deny that being more careful about who gets to own a gun is a contributing factor. It is common sense.

To be clear, Hawaii is not a State devoid of guns. We have nearly as many guns as we do people. Hunting is one of the most popular outdoor activities in Hawaii. Some hunting seasons in our State are year-round. We have a number of shooting ranges and gun clubs in our State, and both they and our hunting opportunities are important drivers of Hawaii's tourism economy.

Clearly, gun safety, gun ownership, and hunting are compatible. Hawaii is showing the way. So knowing that we can balance commonsense gun safety laws with responsible gun ownership, as we do in Hawaii, we are left with a few simple questions. Why hasn't the Senate passed H.R. 8, a bill that would expand background checks for gun purchases? Why has the Senate let this House-passed bill languish for 200 days? Why is the Senate failing the American people?

In normal times, we would have a majority leader who would rush to pass a law favored by 90 percent of the people of our country. In normal times, we would be anxious to restrict firearms ownership to those who can pass a background check, just as we are anxious to ban flavored e-cigarettes that target children with addictive products. But these are not normal times. In these times, we have a majority leader who is sitting around waiting for Donald Trump to tell him what to do or doing the bidding of the NRA.

Instead of waiting around for the erratic, inconsistent, always-changing-his-mind Donald Trump to make up his mind—we should live so long—the majority leader should take action. It is time for the Senate to reassert its role as a separate branch of government, stand up to the NRA, and pass H.R. 8. It has been 200 days. One hundred people a day die in our country by firearms. Do the math. That is 2,000 firearm deaths since the House passed the bill.

It is way past time for the Senate to do something, but as we wait for the majority leader and the President to summon the fortitude to act, we are treated to a familiar refrain from the NRA and their allies in Congress. You have heard it before. ''Guns don't kill people; people kill people.'' Well, a person with a gun killed 58 people at a music festival in Las Vegas. A person with a gun killed 49 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. A person with a gun killed 32 people at Virginia Tech. A person with a gun killed 27 people, including little children, at Sandy Hook Elementary. A person with a gun killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. A person with a gun killed 11 people at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. A person with a gun killed 26 people at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX. A person with a gun killed nine people at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC.

Since the beginning of August, a total of 113 people have been killed in mass shootings across the country, including incidents where a person with a gun killed 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso, a person with a gun killed 9 people outside a bar in Dayton, OH, and a person with a gun killed 7 people in a shooting spree across Odessa-Midland, TX.

Obviously, people with guns kill people.

It is a sad day in our country when elementary school children have to

practice drills in how to escape a masked shooter. Our country's continuing tragedy of these deaths has resulted in an entire industry of companies that come to schools and tell the schools: We can build you a safe school. We could end up with citadels for schools instead of the places of learning they should be. That is what is happening in our country.

It is past time to retire the NRA's old canard that ''guns don't kill; it is people that kill.'' It is people with guns who kill people. It is time for us to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today to once again call for this body to act on commonsense gun safety legislation. Time and again we have witnessed unfathomable carnage at the hands of assault-style rifles and high-capacity magazines. It is a horror movie we have seen over and over.

As parents bury children, as infants lose parents, as America grieves the senseless loss of life, the NRA just tightens its grip on the President and the majority leader.

I am heartened by the grassroots movement that has grown across our Nation in recent years, and, likewise, I am encouraged by the many polls indicating that Americans overwhelmingly want action.

Americans are tired of having their voices drowned out by the NRA. They are tired of a Congress that fears NRA attack ads more than the next mass shooting, and they are tired of being told time and again that this is a mental health problem or a violent video game problem when we know it is a gun problem. It is time for real action in the Senate.

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed universal background checks for every gun sale—the kind of measure that would have stopped the shooter in Midland, TX, from bypassing a criminal background check if it had been a law.

Just last week, the House Judiciary Committee passed the Keep Americans Safe Act, my legislation to limit the sale of ammunition to no more than 10 rounds. We know that a magazine that holds 30 or 60 or even 100 rounds of ammunition, like the Dayton shooter's did, is not for hunting or self-defense or protecting your home. High-capacity magazines are designed for one thing, and that is high-capacity killing.

It is true that no single law is going to prevent all gun deaths. It is also true that we can prevent some gun deaths, and reducing magazine size is a proven way to do so.

What will it take for the majority leader to take action? I am not the only one asking this question. Indeed, on September 3, the Washington Post published an editorial calling on the majority leader to act. They asked: ''Would any volume of bloodshed convince the Kentucky Republican that Congress faces a moral imperative to act?''

Alongside their call for action, the Post also published a staggering list of names—names of fellow Americans who have lost their lives in mass shootings, many involving high-capacity ammunition. I will read as many of these names as I can in my allotted time today: Cassie Bernall, Steven Curnow, Corey DePooter, Kelly Fleming, Matthew Kechter, Daniel Mauser, Daniel Rohrbough, William ''Dave'' Sanders, Rachel Scott, Isaiah Shoels, John Tomlin, Lauren Townsend, Kyle Velasquez, Jennifer Bragg Capobianco, Janice Hagerty, Louis ''Sandy'' Javelle, Rose Manfredi, Paul Marceau, Cheryl Troy, Craig Wood, Derrick Brun, Dewayne Lewis, Chase Lussier, Daryl Lussier, Neva Rogers, Chanelle Rosebear, Michelle Sigana, Thurlene Stillday, Alicia White, Naomi Ebersol, Marian Stoltzfus Fisher, Lena Zook Miller, Mary Liz Miller, Anna Mae Stoltzfus, Ross Abdallah Alameddine, Christopher James Bishop, Brian Bluhm, Ryan Clark, Austin Cloyd, Jocelyne Couture-Nowak, Daniel Perez Cueva, Kevin Granata, Matthew G. Gwaltney, Caitlin Hammaren, Jeremy Herbstritt, Rachael Elizabeth Hill, Emily Hilscher, Jarrett Lane, Matthew J. La Porte, Henry Lee, Liviu Librescu, G.V. Loganathan, Partahi Lumbantoruan, Lauren McCain, Daniel O'Neil, Juan Ramon Ortiz, Minal Panchal, Erin Peterson, Michael Pohle, Julia Pryde, Mary Read, Reema Samaha, Waleed Shaalan, Leslie Sherman, Maxine Turner, Nicole R. White, Beverly Flynn, Janet Jorgensen, Gary Joy, John McDonald, Gary Scharf, Angie Schuster, Dianne Trent, Maggie Webb, Parveen Ali, Almir Alves, Marc Henry Bernard, Maria Sonia Bernard, Hong Xiu Mao, Jiang Ling, Layla Khalil, Roberta King, Lan Ho, Li Guo, Dolores Yigal, Maria Zobniw, Michael Grant Cahill, Libardo Eduardo Caraveo, Justin Michael DeCrow, John Gaffaney, Frederick Greene, Jason Dean Hunt, Amy S. Krueger, Aaron Thomas Nemelka, Michael S. Pearson, Russell Seager, Francheska Velez, Juanita L. Warman, Kham See Xiong, Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John M. Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, Gabriel Zimmerman, Demetrius Hewlin, Russell King, Jr., Daniel Parmertor, Tshering Rinzing Bhutia, Doris Chibuko, Sonam Choedon, Grace Eunhea Kim, Katleen Ping, Judith O. Seymour, Lydia Sim, Jonathan Blunk, A.J. Boik, Jesse Childress, Gordon Cowden, Jessica Ghawi, John Thomas Larimer, Matthew McQuinn, Micayla Medek, Veronica Moser-Sullivan, Alex Matthew Sullivan, Alexander Teves, Rebecca Ann Wingo, Satwant Singh Kaleka, Suveg Singh Khattra, Paramjit Kaur, Prakash Singh, Ranjit Singh, Sita Singh, Charlotte Bacon, Daniel Barden, Rachel D'Avino, Olivia Engel, Josephine Gay, Dylan Hockley, Dawn Hochsprung, Madeleine F. Hsu, Catherine V. Hubbard, Chase Kowalski, Jesse Lewis, Ana G. Marquez-Greene, James Mattioli, Grace McDonnell, Anne Marie Murphy, Emilie Parker, Jack Pinto, Noah Pozner, Caroline Previdi, Jessica Rekos, Avielle Richman, Lauren Russeau, Mary Sherlach, Victoria Soto, Benjamin Wheeler, Allison Wyatt.

My time is almost up, but I haven't even reached the names of those who died after Newtown nearly 7 years ago.

I will close with one last point. It is heartbreaking to know that some of the people on this list might be alive today if we only had the courage to pass the Keep Americans Safe Act or to establish universal background checks or a new assault weapons ban. It is just as heartbreaking to know that more names of more sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues will end up on this list in the days ahead should the Senate continue to fail to act. That is the truth. That is the truth.

Every day without action is another closer to America's next mass shooting. The time to save lives is now.

I ask unanimous consent that the Washington Post's entire list of mass shooting victims be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 3, 2019]

HOW MANY MORE NAMES WILL BE ADDED TO THE LIST BEFORE MITCH MCCONNELL ACTS ON GUNS?

(By the Editorial Board)

Rodolfo Julio Arco, 57; Kameron Karltess Brown, 30; Raul Garcia, 35; Mary Granados, 29; Joseph Griffith, 40; Leilah Hernandez, 15; Edwin Peregrino, 25.

Add those seven individuals, randomly slaughtered Saturday by a shooter in the West Texas cities of Midland and Odessa, to the toll of those lost to America's gun insanity. And then pose this question:

What if there was a mass shooting in the United States not once or twice or four or six times monthly, but every single day, a big one, the kind that electrifies social media and squats for days on Page 1—would that be enough to move Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell from his insistent inertia on gun safety? Would any volume of bloodshed convince the Kentucky Republican that Congress faces a moral imperative to act? Thirty-eight people were slain in three such shootings in August—in Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, as well as West Texas—and still Senate Republicans and President Trump refuse to act.

The list below, far from comprehensive, is tragic, in part, because it is so far from inevitable. No, no single law would end gun violence. But there are reasonable, obvious measures that would help.

For example: Ban the sale of military-grade assault weapons. Unneeded by civilians, they are a blight on the nation, their ready availability a national disgrace. Eliminating them would slow the growth of this list. It would save lives.

April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.: Cassie Bernall, 17; Steven Curnow, 14; Corey DePooter, 17; Kelly Fleming, 16; Matthew Kechter, 16; Daniel Mauser, 15; Daniel Rohrbough, 15; William ''Dave'' Sanders, 47; Rachel Scott, 17; Isaiah Shoels, 18; John Tomlin, 16; Lauren Townsend, 18; Kyle Velasquez, 16.

Dec. 26, 2000, at Edgewater Technology in Wakefield, Mass.: Jennifer Bragg

Capobianco, 29; Janice Hagerty, 46; Louis ''Sandy'' Javelle, 58; Rose Manfredi, 48; Paul Marceau, 36; Cheryl Troy, 50; Craig Wood, 29.

March 21, 2005, at Red Lake High School on the Red Lake Indian Reservation in Red Lake, Minn.: Derrick Brun, 28; Dewayne Lewis, 15; Chase Lussier, 15; Daryl Lussier, 58; Neva Rogers, 62; Chanelle Rosebear, 15; Michelle Sigana, 32; Thurlene Stillday, 15; Alicia White, 15.

Oct. 2, 2006, at an Amish schoolhouse in Lancaster County, Pa.: Naomi Ebersol, 7; Marian Stoltzfus Fisher, 13; Lena Zook Miller, 7; Mary Liz Miller, 8; Anna Mae Stoltzfus, 12.

April 16, 2007, at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.: Ross Abdallah Alameddine, 20; Christopher James ''Jamie'' Bishop, 35; Brian Bluhm, 25; Ryan Clark, 22; Austin Cloyd, 18; Jocelyne Couture-Nowak, 49; Daniel Perez Cueva, 21; Kevin Granata, 46; Matthew G. Gwaltney, 24; Caitlin Hammaren, 19; Jeremy Herbstritt, 27; Rachael Elizabeth Hill, 18; Emily Hilscher, 19; Jarrett Lane, 22; Matthew J. La Porte, 20; Henry Lee, 20; Liviu Librescu, 76; G.V. Loganathan, 51; Partahi Lumbantoruan, 34; Lauren McCain, 20; Daniel O'Neil, 22; Juan Ramon Ortiz, 26; Minal Panchal, 26; Erin Peterson, 18; Michael Pohle, 23; Julia Pryde, 23; Mary Read, 19; Reema Samaha, 18; Waleed Shaalan, 32; Leslie Sherman, 20; Maxine Turner, 22; Nicole R. White, 20.

Dec. 5, 2007, at the Westroads Mall in Omaha: Beverly Flynn, 47; Janet Jorgensen, 66; Gary Joy, 56; John McDonald, 65; Gary Scharf, 48; Angie Schuster, 36; Dianne Trent, 53; Maggie Webb, 24.

April 3, 2009, at the American Civic Association immigration services center in Binghamton, N.Y.: Parveen Nln Ali, 26; Almir O. Alves, 43; Marc Henry Bernard, 44; Maria Sonia Bernard, 46; Hai Hong Zhong, 54; Hong Xiu Mao, 35; Jiang Ling, 22; Layla Khalil, 57; Roberta King, 72; Lan Ho, 39; Li Guo, 47; Dolores Yigal, 53; Maria Zobniw, 60.

Nov. 5, 2009, at Fort Hood, near Killeen, Tex.: Michael Grant Cahill, 62; Libardo Eduardo Caraveo, 52; Justin Michael DeCrow, 32; John P. Gaffaney, 56; Frederick Greene, 29; Jason Dean Hunt, 22; Amy S. Krueger, 29; Aaron Thomas Nemelka, 19; Michael S. Pearson, 22; Russell Seager, 51; Francheska Velez, 21; Juanita L. Warman, 55; Kham See Xiong, 23.

Jan. 8, 2011, in the parking lot of a grocery store near Tucson: Christina Taylor Green, 9; Dorothy Morris, 76; John M. Roll, 63; Phyllis Schneck, 79; Dorwan Stoddard, 76; Gabriel Zimmerman, 30.

Feb. 27, 2012, at Chardon High School in Chardon, Ohio: Demetrius Hewlin, 16; Russell King, Jr., 17; Daniel Parmertor, 16.

April 2, 2012, at Oikos University in Oakland, Calif.: Tshering Rinzing Bhutia, 38; Doris Chibuko, 40; Sonam Choedon, 33; Grace Eunhea Kim, 23; Katleen Ping, 24; Judith O. Seymour, 53; Lydia Sim, 21.

July 20, 2012, at the Century Aurora 16 movie complex in Aurora, Colo.: Jonathan Blunk, 26: A.J. Boik, 18; Jesse Childress, 29; Gordon W. Cowden, 51; Jessica Ghawi, 24; John Thomas Larimer, 27; Matthew McQuinn, 27; Micayla Medek, 23; Veronica Moser-Sullivan, 6; Alex Matthew Sullivan, 27; Alexander Teves, 24; Rebecca Ann Wingo, 32.

Aug. 5, 2012, at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in Oak Creek, Wis.: Satwant Singh Kaleka, 65; Suveg Singh Khattra, 84; Paramjit Kaur, 41; Prakash Singh, 39; Ranjit Singh, 49; Sita Singh, 41.

Dec. 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.: Charlotte Bacon, 6; Daniel Barden, 7; Rachel D'Avino, 29; Olivia Engel, 6; Josephine Gay, 7; Dylan Hockley, 6; Dawn Hochsprung, 47; Madeleine F. Hsu, 6; Catherine V. Hubbard, 6; Chase Kowalski, 7; Jesse Lewis, 6; Ana G. Marquez-Greene, 6; James Mattioli, 6; Grace McDonnell, 7; Anne Marie Murphy, 52; Emilie Parker, 6; Jack Pinto, 6; Noah Pozner, 6; Caroline Previdi, 6; Jessica Rekos, 6; Avielle Richman, 6; Lauren Russeau, 30; Mary Sherlach, 56; Victoria Soto, 27; Benjamin Wheeler, 6; Allison N. Wyatt, 6.

Sept. 16, 2013, at the Washington Navy Yard in the District: Michael Arnold, 59; Martin Bodrog, 54; Arthur Daniels, 51; Sylvia Frasier, 53; Kathy Gaarde, 62; John Roger Johnson, 73; Mary Frances DeLorenzo Knight, 51; Frank Kohler, 51; Vishnu Bhalchandra Pandit, 61; Kenneth Bernard Proctor, 46; Gerald Read, 58; Richard Michael Ridge11, 52.

June 17, 2015, at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.: Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, 45; DePayne V. Middleton Doctor, 49; Cynthia Graham Hurd, 54; Susie Jackson, 87; Ethel Lee Lance, 70; Clementa C. Pinckney, 41; Tywanza Sanders, 26; Daniel Simmons, 74; Myra Thompson, 59.

July 16, 2015, at an armed services recruiting center and a Navy reserve center in Chattanooga, Tenn.: Carson A. Holmquist, 25; Randall Smith, 26; Thomas J. Sullivan, 40; Squire K. ''Skip'' Wells, 21, David A. Wyatt, 35.

Oct. 1, 2015, at a community college in Roseburg, Ore.: Lucero Alcaraz, 19; Treven Taylor Anspach, 20; Rebecka Ann Carnes, 18; Quinn Glen Cooper, 18; Kim Saltmarsh Dietz, 59; Lucas Eibel, 18; Jason Dale Johnson, 33; Lawrence Levine, 67; Sarena Dawn Moore, 44.

Nov. 27, 2015, at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs: Jennifer Markovsky, 36; Ke'Arre M. Stewart, 29; Garrett Swasey, 44.

Dec. 2, 2015, at an office park in San Bernardino, Calif.: Robert Adams, 40; Isaac Amanios, 60; Bennetta Betbadal, 46; Harry Bowman, 46; Sierra Clayborn, 27; Juan Espinoza, 50; Aurora Godoy, 26; Shannon Johnson, 45; Larry Daniel Kaufman, 42; Damian Meins, 58; Tin Nguyen, 31; Nicholas Thalasinos, 52; Yvette Velasco, 27; Michael Raymond Wetzel, 37.

June 12, 2016, at Pulse nightclub in Orlando: Stanley Almodovar III, 23; Amanda L. Alvear, 25; Oscar A. Aracena Montero, 26; Rodolfo Ayala Ayala, 33; Antonio Davon Brown, 29; Darryl Roman Burt II, 29; Angel Candelario-Padro, 28; Juan Chavez Martinez, 25; Luis Daniel Conde, 39; Cory James Connell, 21; Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25; Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32; Simón Adrian Carrillo Fernández, 31; Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25; Mercedez Marisol Flores, 26; Peter Ommy Gonzalez Cruz, 22; Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22; Paul Terrell Henry, 41; Frank Hernandez, 27; Miguel Angel Honorato, 30; Javier Jorge Reyes, 40; Jason Benjamin Josaphat, 19; Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30; Anthony Luis Laureano Disla, 25; Christopher Andrew Leinonen, 32; Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21, Brenda Marquez McCool, 49; Gilberto R. Silva Menendez, 25; Kimberly Jean Morris, 37; Akyra Monet Murray, 18; Luis Omar Ocasio Capo, 20; Geraldo A. Ortiz Jimenez, 25; Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36; Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32; Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35; Enrique L. Rios Jr., 25; Jean Carlos Nieves Rodriguez, 27; Xavier Emmanuel Serrano-Rosado, 35; Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24; Yilmary Rodríguez Solivan, 24; Edward Sotomayor Jr., 34; Shane Evan Tomlinson, 33; Martin Benitez Torres, 33; Jonathan A. Camuy Vega, 24; Juan Pablo Rivera Velázquez, 37; Luis Sergio Vielma, 22; Franky Jimmy DeJesus Velázquez, 50; Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37; Jerald Arthur Wright, 31.

Jan. 6, 2017, at the baggage claim of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Florida: Mary Louise Amzibel, 69; Terry Andres, 62; Michael Oehme, 57; Shirley Timmons, 70; Olga Woltering, 84.

June 5, 2017, at an awning company near Orlando: Kevin Clark, 53; Kevin Lawson, 46; Brenda Montanez-Crespo, 44; Jeffrey Roberts, 57; Robert Snyder, 69.

Oct. 1, 2017, on the Las Vegas Strip: Hannah Ahlers, 34; Heather Alvarado, 35; Dorene Anderson, 49; Carrie Barnette, 34; Jack Beaton, 54; Stephen Berger, 44; Candice Bowers, 40; Denise Burditus, 50; Sandy Casey, 35; Andrea Castilla, 28; Denise Cohen, 58; Austin Davis, 29; Thomas Day Jr., 54; Christiana Duarte, 22; Stacee Rodrigues Etcheber, 50; Brian Fraser, 39; Keri Galvan, 31; Dana Gardner, 52; Angela Gomez, 20; Charleston Hartfield, 34; Christopher Hazencomb, 44; Jennifer Topaz Irvine, 42; Teresa Nicol Kimura, 38; Jessica Klymchuk, 34; Carly Kreibaum, 33; Rhonda LeRocque, 42; Victor Link, 55; Jordan McIldoon, 23; Kelsey Breanne Meadows, 28; Calla-Marie Medig, 28; Sonny Melton, 29; Patricia Mestas, 67; Austin Meyer, 24; Adrian Murfitt, 35; Rachael Parker, 33; Jennifer Parks, 36; Carolyn Parsons, 31; Lisa Patterson, 46; John Phippen, 56; Melissa Ramirez, 26; Jordyn Rivera, 21; Quinton Robbins, 20; Cameron Robinson, 28; Rocio Guillen Rocha, 40; Tara Roe, 34; Lisa Romero-Muniz, 48; Christopher Roybal, 28; Brett Schwanbeck, 61; Bailey Schweitzer, 20; Laura Shipp, 50; Erick Silva, 21; Susan Smith, 53; Brennan Stewart, 30; Derrick Taylor, 56; Neysa Tonks, 46; Michelle Vo, 32; Kurt Von Tillow, 55; Bill Wolfe Jr., 42.

Nov. 5, 2017, at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Tex.: Keith Allen Braden, 62; Robert Michael Corrigan, 51; Shani Louise Corrigan, 51; Emily Garcia, 7; Emily Rose Hill, 11; Gregory Lynn Hill, 13; Megan Gail Hill, 9; Crystal Marie Holcombe, 36; John Bryan Holcombe, 60; Karla Plain Holcombe, 58; Marc Daniel Holcombe, 36; Noah Holcombe, 1; Dennis Neil Johnson, 77; Sara Johns Johnson, 68; Haley Krueger, 16; Robert Scott Marshall, 56; Karen Sue Marshall, 56; Tara E. McNulty, 33; Annabelle Renae Pomeroy, 14; Ricardo Cardona Rodriguez, 64; Therese Sagan Rodriguez, 66; Brooke Bryanne Ward, 5; Joann Lookingbill Ward, 30; Peggy Lynn Warden, 56; Lula Woicinski White, 71.

Feb. 14, 2018, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.: Alyssa Alhadeff, 14; Scott Beigel, 35; Martin Duque, 14; Nicholas Dworet, 17; Aaron Feis, 37; Jaime Guttenberg, 14; Chris Hixon, 49; Luke Hoyer, 15; Cara Loughran, 14; Gina Montalto, 14; Joaquin Oliver, 17; Alaina Petty, 14; Meadow Pollack, 18; Helena Ramsay, 17; Alex Schachter, 14; Carmen Schentrup, 16; Peter Wang, 15.

May 18, 2018, at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Tex.: Jared Black, 17; Shana Fisher, 16; Christian Riley Garcia, 15; Aaron Kyle McLeod, 15; Glenda Ann Perkins, 64; Angelique Ramirez, 15; Sabika Sheikh, 17; Christopher Stone, 17; Cynthia Tisdale, 63; Kimberly Vaughan, 14.

June 28, 2018, at the Capital Gazette newsroom in Annapolis: Gerald Fischman, 61; Rob Hiaasen, 59; John McNamara, 56; Rebecca Smith, 34; Wendi Winters, 65.

Oct. 27, 2018, at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh: Joyce Fienberg, 75; Richard Gottfried, 65; Rose Mallinger, 97; Jerry Rabinowitz, 66; Cecil Rosenthal, 59; David Rosenthal, 54; Bernice Simon, 84; Sylvan Simon, 86; Daniel Stein, 71; Melvin Wax, 87; Irving Younger, 69.

Nov. 7, 2018, at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sean Adler, 48; Cody Coffman, 22; Blake Dingman, 21; Jake Dunham, 21, Ron Helus, 54; Alaina Housley, 18; Dan Manrique, 33; Justin Meek, 23; Mark Meza Jr., 20, Kristina Morisette, 20; Telemachus Orfanos, 27; Noel Sparks, 21.

Jan. 23, 2019, at the SunTrust Bank in Sebring, Fla.: Debra Cook, 54; Marisol Lopez, 55; Jessica Montague, 31; Ana Piñon-Williams, 38; Cynthia Watson, 65.

Feb. 15, 2019, at the Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, Ill.: Russell Beyer, 47; Vicente Juarez, 54; Clayton Parks, 32; Josh Pinkard, 37; Trevor Wehner, 21.

May 31, 2019, at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center, in Virginia Beach : LaQuita C. Brown, 39; Ryan Keith Cox, 50; Tara Welch Gallagher, 39; Mary Louise Gayle, 65; Alexander Mikhail Gusev, 35; Joshua O. Hardy, 52; Michelle ''Missy'' Langer, 60; Richard H. Nettleton, 65; Katherine A. Nixon, 42; Christopher Kelly Rapp, 54; Herbert ''Bert'' Snelling, 57; Robert ''Bobby'' Williams, 72.

July 28, 2019, at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in California: Trevor Deon Irby, 25; Stephen Romero, 6; Keyla Salazar, 13.

Aug. 3, 2019, at a Walmart Supercenter in El Paso: Andre Anchondo, 24; Jordan Anchondo, 25; Arturo Benavides, 60; Leo Campos, 41; Angelina Englisbee, 86; Maria Flores, 77; Raul Flores, 83; Jorge Calvillo García, 61; Adolfo Cerros Hernández, 68; Maribel Hernández, 56; Alexander Gerhard Hoffman, 66; David Johnson, 63; Luis Juarez, 90; Maria Eugenia Legarreta, 58; Ivan Filiberto Manzano, 45; Gloria Irma Márquez, 61; Elsa Mendoza, 57; Margie Reckard, 63; Sara Esther Regalado, 66; Javier Amir Rodriguez, 15; Teresa Sanchez, 82; Juan de Dios Velázquez, 77.

Aug. 4, 2019, at the Oregon Historic District in Dayton, Ohio: Megan K. Betts, 22; Monica E. Brickhouse, 39; Nicholas P. Cumer, 25; Derrick R. Fudge, 57; Thomas J. McNichols, 25; Lois L. Oglesby, 27; Saeed Saleh, 38; Logan M. Turner, 30; Beatrice N. Warren-Curtis, 36.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I am rising to speak tonight as a Senator that comes from a passionate Second Amendment State. The citizens of my home State of Oregon value their guns for collecting, for target practice, for personal defense, and, certainly, for hunting. But it is also a State where citizens have said they do not want individuals who are deeply disturbed or individuals who have felony backgrounds to get ahold of guns because we have a responsibility to make sure that guns don't end up in the wrong hands and that guns are not abused.

Our State then proceeded to do a series of things to strengthen a background check system. It was in the year 2000 that the citizens drew a ballot measure supported by almost 62 percent of the State that chose to close the gun show loophole that previously had allowed purchasers to buy guns at gun shows without completing a background check, making a background check in gun stores essentially irrelevant.

It was in 2015 that the citizens of Oregon closed the Craig's List loophole, and it was in the year 2018 when they closed through the legislature the ''boyfriend'' loophole, saying that if an individual had a restraining order against them or a stalking conviction, they shouldn't have the ability to buy a gun in our State.

Now, I do a lot of townhalls. I do one in every county every year. At the end of this year, I am hitting about 400 townhalls since the time I have been in the Senate. Of the 36 counties I go to each year, 22 of them would be what you would describe politically as being very red counties, and gun violence comes up all the time. Yet even in those conservative red counties, people are incredibly supportive of having a background check system nationally like Oregon has created, because right now in Oregon it is kind of a big hole if somebody just ignores a background check and goes across the border to another State to buy guns.

Then we have the challenges of straw buyers, and we need to have rigorous enforcement of that. It is only with a national system that this works.

Every year, thousands of people go to more than 4,000 gun shows held across America, and they purchase between 4 to 9 percent of all the annual firearms that are sold in America at these events. Because gun shows in most States don't require background checks, people who couldn't pass a background check simply can go and acquire their weapon in that fashion.

For this reason, guns purchased at gun shows are disproportionately the ones that are used in criminal activities. The same is true for individuals purchasing guns in other States through websites like Craig's List. Just like gun show purchasers, individuals purchasing firearms online from private sellers are exempt from background checks in all but 12 States and the District of Columbia.

So, nationally, there is powerful support for a solid background check system that doesn't have loopholes that just make it irrelevant—closing of the loophole for gun shows, closing the loophole for Craig's List, and closing the loophole for stalkers and domestic abusers.

Speaking of domestic abusers, in just an average week, about 17 women—about 17 women—are fatally shot by former or current romantic partners.

As we talk about the challenge with guns and violent deaths in America, we have the names of various cities ringing in our ears—cities like Dayton, 9 dead and 27 wounded; El Paso, 22 dead and 24 wounded; Odessa and Midland, 7 dead and 21 wounded. But recognize this: While those extra traumatic events capture the headlines, there is a mass shooting in America more than once per day. As of September 1 of this year, which was the 244th day of the year, there have been 283 mass shootings.

What is a mass shooting? It is a situation in which more than four people are hit by gunfire.

So it is time to act. Right now, this is the moment that demands action because 92 percent of Americans favor a background check for all gun sales. We owe it to Americans to support background checks for all gun sales and to actually act. We owe it to our children, who are now scared of going to school and who are forced to practice hiding from a crazed murderer in active shooting drills. We owe it to our teachers, who are prepared to put their lives on the line for their students in case of an emergency. And we owe it to the families of the countless Americans who have lost their lives to gun violence—to the mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers, and the loved ones of those who are lost. They have an unhealable pain.

One of those individuals, Fred Guttenberg, is here tonight. On Valentine's Day 2018, Fred's 14-year-old daughter, Jamie Guttenberg was gunned down at her school in Parkland, FL. Jamie was, in her father's words, ''tough as nails,'' but also ''silly, funny, energetic . . . wherever she went, she was the energy in the room.''

She wanted to be a pediatric physical therapist and work with children to make their lives better. She was a 14-year-old with her whole life ahead of her. She was a competitive dancer. She was a freshman in high school with so many life chapters to be written.

But she didn't get to write those chapters—chapters having fun with her friends, chapters getting stressed out by back-to-school homework or planning for the prom or making plans for the future or deciding what path to go in life and where to attend school. All of it was stolen from her and stolen from her family.

Her father Fred has said:

> ''Everybody thinks this gets easier as time goes on. It actually doesn't. It gets harder, because every day there's just going to be a new reminder of what you lost.''

She was the second to the last to be shot. She was shot in the spine running away from the shooter. Fred notes that it was his daughter, but it could have been your daughter. It could have been your son. It could have been the child of any one of us.

(Mr. BARRASSO assumes the Chair.)

Mr. President, we are here in the Chamber to help make life better. We are here to keep Americans safe, but we are doing nothing, and doing nothing with 90-plus percent of America crying out and saying: Have the guts to act.

Mr. President, let's have the guts to act. Let's have the guts to put the bill here on the floor. The House passed H.R. 8, the basic background check bill. We are not here to do the interests of big corporations. We are not here to do the interests of special interests. Ninety-plus percent of Americans say to act on the basics of doing a background check when people buy a gun, no matter where they buy it.

Let's act. Let's hold a debate. Let's actually talk to each other. Let's make the arguments pro and con. Let's hear why we shouldn't listen to the vast majority of Americans. It is the vast majority of Democrats, it is the vast majority of Independents, and it is the

vast majority of Republicans, with virtually no difference in the level of support between the Democrats, Independents, and Republicans. All of America is saying that background checks make sense.

The American people deserve safety in their homes, workplaces, schools, and their communities, but all I have heard is a majority leader who says that he will only allow a bill on the floor when the President says it is OK.

Well, the last time I checked the Constitution, it is our responsibility here in the Senate and House to act, not to hide behind the skirts of the President. This President, we know, has been spineless—absolutely spineless. One call from a special interest group, one meeting with the NRA, and suddenly his conviction dissipates like light rain on hot asphalt.

Are we going to abdicate our responsibility to legislate to a spineless President? It is not his role to decide what bills are passed in this country. It is our responsibility here in the Senate. I believe that if Democrats and Republicans come together and honor their responsibility to act and pass the bill, the President will be in the Oval Office signing it because all of America is crying out for him to do so.

It has been a long time since the bill was passed in the House. It has been 202 days. That is 202 opportunities that we have had to debate the House bill and take a vote on it. It has been 202 opportunities in which the leadership of this Chamber has failed the American people by refusing to have a debate on this floor.

When I came here, not long ago, virtually any Senator could get any issue before the Senate. Suddenly, we have a dictator in the Senate. The majority leader says only the bills that he wants will be considered and only the amendments that he wants will be considered on the floor of the Senate.

What happened to my Republican colleagues who believed in the right to amend and the right to legislate, who now yield to one individual in the Senate dictating what is considered in this august Chamber? We are not much of a legislative chamber if only one person can determine what is considered here on the floor of the Senate.

The American people are asking for better. Let's deliver much better. Let's consider H.R. 8. Let's get it on the floor. Let's debate and let's vote.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their indulgence this evening and those of you who help us keep this floor open.

I will make some longer remarks later this evening, but while we have a short break on the floor and await Senator BROWN, I want to say a word of appreciation to all of my colleagues who have decided to join us this evening on the floor.

This is my first appearance here to talk about the imperative of changing the Nation's gun laws, recognizing that this number—100 Americans killed by guns every single day—is not inevitable. Almost every single one of these murders and suicides and accidental shootings is preventable if we make different choices here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Our purpose tonight is to try to bring some consistency of effort to a case that we have been making for a very long time. So I will be back here later this evening to walk through the case, as far as I see it, for universal background checks in particular but also for a host of other measures that are broadly popular amongst the American public.

One point I will make right now is that this issue is really unique in American politics today. It is not a controversial issue out in America. It is only controversial here inside the political process. In fact, there are very few matters in public life today that are, frankly, more controversial than this issue. When you go out and ask people if they support universal background checks, which is the measure that passed the House of Representatives by a 9-to-1 margin, they support universal background checks. There is almost nothing else in American politics today—I would endeavor to say there is nothing else in American politics today that is as popular as this measure; yet it has this reputation of being a third rail of political discourse here in Washington.

I would simply encourage my colleagues to get out there and have conversations with their constituents, to have conversations with members of their own parties, to have conversations with gun owners. You will find that there is a consistency of opinion at least on a large number of pieces of legislation that are before this body. At the top of that list are universal background checks. I have this conversation over and over and over again—and then I will leave the floor to Senator BROWN and return later—with the President's supporters, with supporters of the Second Amendment, and with members of the NRA in my State.

Of course, I have acquired a reputation of being a forceful and vocal advocate for stronger gun laws in this Nation, and the NRA often targets me in its advertisements and its emails. I will often be confronted by my constituents who will see me at a public event. They will come on a beeline over to me and start confronting me about my agenda to confiscate their weapons or to take away their guns. Of course, I try to disabuse them of that notion, and as soon as I can, I take the conversation to background checks.

I say: Listen, let me ask you a question. Do you think that everybody who is buying a gun in this country should have to go through a background check?

Almost invariably, the individual, who just moments ago was so confrontational with me about the issue of guns—his defenses drop, and he says: Well, yes. Of course, I support that. Of course, everybody should get a background check before buying a gun.

I said: You got one, right?

He said: I got one. It was 3- or 4-minutes long. That is not what I am talking about. I object to all of the other things, but, of course, I want background checks.

Gun owners support background checks by an 80- to 90-percent margin. NRA members support it. Polls suggest that 75 to 80 percent of NRA members support background checks. This is just one of the least controversial issues that exists out there in the American public today.

We are going to have a conversation today about the efficacy of these measures, but we should remember that there are many times when we get deluded into believing something is much more of a vexing political conversation than it truly is, and background checks are on that agenda.

At this point, I yield the floor, and I will come back down later for longer remarks. I am glad to be joined this evening by Senator BROWN from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I am also joined by Senator CASEY, of Pennsylvania, who has been a leader as Senator MURPHY has been. We look to Senator MURPHY every day in this body because he has seen this tragedy up close in the most vivid, awful ways. We appreciate how he has represented victims and people who might end up being victims. If we do this right, they won't end up being victims. His leadership has really mattered.

On a Sunday morning 6 weeks ago, Connie and I woke up, checked our iPhones, and immediately called out to each other and said: Oh, my gosh. Look what has happened in Dayton.

It was the first Saturday night in August. At 1 o'clock that Sunday morning, a local man with an assault weapon walked into the Oregon District in Dayton, as people were out having fun that night, and just opened fired. He killed his sister, and he killed eight others. He wounded more than 20. In the space of 32 seconds, he had fired 41 bullets. It tells you the kind of gun he had. Heroically, six police officers descended on him. They shot him and killed him before he could walk into this nightclub where he would have probably killed 20 other people.

I called Mayor Nan Whaley that morning, probably at 8:30. It was pretty incredible. This happened at 1 o'clock in the morning. I called her at 8:30—7½ hours later. The first thing she said to me was that she had gotten emails and texts and calls—in her words—from several dozen mayors around the country who had either had to deal with this, as many had, or had had situations in which they had had gun violence and had just offered to help her in any way they could.

We know what happens. We know that every time there is gun violence—every time there is a mass shooting—the first thing the Republicans say is: My thoughts and prayers are with the victims.

How can you not agree with that? We all think that.

Then they say ''Now is not the time to talk about it'' as if they ever want to talk about it.

Then they say: You know, we have to do something about mental health in this country.

Ask Senator CASEY about his efforts on Medicaid and my efforts on Medicaid. The people who sit on this side of the aisle—where the Republicans sit here—are the ones who stood a year ago at every one of these desks, all of the Senators having their health insurance paid for by the government, paid for by taxpayers, and tried to take away health insurance for millions and millions of Americans.

Senator CASEY told me today that 1.1 million people in Pennsylvania now have health insurance because of the Affordable Care Act. In my State, where my daughter Elizabeth Brown is a councilperson in Columbus, 900,000 people have insurance because of that. On this side of the aisle, every single Senator except for three—one of whom has passed away—voted to take away the insurance, to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Then they have the gall to say we have to do more on mental health. If that had passed—if they had repealed the Affordable Care Act—hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians and Ohioans wouldn't have had the mental health services they are getting now. So spare me that whining. Spare me that ''oh, we want to take care of mental health issues.'' No, they don't. They just want to do the NRA's bidding.

Look down this aisle. Look down this hall. Right down this hall is Senator MCCONNELL's office. I am not going to say that gun lobbyists walk down that hall and walk into his office and hand him money. I don't think they do that. Yet I do know that until we break the addiction that Donald Trump and MITCH MCCONNELL and most of the Republicans—most of the people in this body—have to gun lobby money, campaign contributions, we will never solve this problem.

We heard that. That is what we heard the first day in Dayton. My wife and I drove to Dayton that afternoon. The President came to Dayton 2 days later. I joined President Trump at the bottom of Air Force One. As he got off the plane, I stood with Mayor Whaley.

We both looked President Trump in the eye and said: Mr. President, I hope you will call Senator MCCONNELL and ask him to bring the Senate back.

This was in early August. The Senate was out of session for 5 weeks.

I hope you will ask Senator MCCONNELL to bring the Senate back into session and pass the House bill that sets up something very simple—universal background checks.

As Senator MURPHY said, 90 percent of the American public supports background checks. You know, the only people who don't support background checks are professional lobbyists for the NRA and the people who sit over here. Other than that, it is over 90 percent. A majority of gun owners in Ohio support universal background checks. A majority of Republicans support universal background checks. A majority of NRA members in Ohio support universal background checks. The only people who don't are Members of this body and that tiny group of NRA professional lobbyists. It is not NRA members who are stopping background checks from passing. It is that narrow group of millionaire, NRA, highly paid, professional lobbyists. That is why we can't pass it here. That is what we have had happen.

Mayor Nan Whaley and I asked President Trump to pass it, and he said: I am going to do big things. We are going to do big things and fix this.

Then we saw him later at the hospital. President Trump went around the hospital with the First Lady. They were kind and generous and empathetic, I believe, with the patients who were there who had been injured and with their family members. Then we met the police officers—the six heroic police officers. We thanked them profusely—all of us—for their courage in saving lives.

Then we walked out of the room, the Governor and the other Senator from Ohio and the local Congressman and the mayor, and he said: We are going to have the biggest awards ever. We are going to give them the biggest Presidential medals ever made for these heroes.

I said: That is really good, Mr. President, but do you know what they would really like? What they would really like is for us to pass background checks and make their jobs a little easier, so when they walk in, they are not ambushed by people with illegal guns.

The President said he was going to do something, then he talked to the NRA, and then he talked to the gun lobby. It is the same story.

Again, when I open this door and look down the hall, I don't expect to see—well, it is late in the day, but I don't expect to see gun lobbyists lining up handing MITCH MCCONNELL money. It is illegal. I don't think he does stuff like that, take money in this body.

I do know, again, that until we break the addiction, until the voters or the Congress or somehow we break the addiction to gun lobby money that MITCH MCCONNELL and Donald Trump and the majority party have, we can't solve this.

This is just too important. For every mass shooting that makes a headline, there are so many other Americans whose lives are taken by gun violence but don't get the same attention. This has to end.

No more stigmatizing people with mental illness. We should stop stigmatizing people with mental illness. Congress should stop taking orders from the NRA and start acting to keep people safe.

I will close with this before Senator CASEY speaks: The shooting was at 1 in the morning on a Sunday. Sunday night, people gathered in the Oregon District—heartbroken people, relatives, friends, community people, just people who were just shellshocked and felt awful about what happened to their city and to those victims—gathered in the Oregon District in Dayton. The Governor was there, and the mayor was up front, and one or two people started yelling: Do something. Do something. Then more and more people joined in, and they started chanting: Do something. Do something.

They were chanting it to local officials. They were chanting it so the Governor heard it and maybe even some State legislators in Ohio heard it. They were shouting loud enough that in this body we should hear that shout to do something.

It starts by taking the bill that passed the House down the hall, bringing it to the Senate floor, debating it, voting on it, passing strong, reasonable background checks. That is the step we need to take. There is simply no excuse for not doing it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise tonight to speak about the issue that has been consuming a lot of our time, and appropriately so, not only tonight but for many weeks, since some of the tragedies of this summer, starting in early August and continuing but also an issue that has occupied the time of the American people over the course of not just weeks or months but years and even decades now.

I thank our colleague from Connecticut, Senator MURPHY, for organizing this time to bring Members of the Senate together.

I thank my colleague from Ohio, Senator BROWN, the senior Senator, for his words tonight, his passion about this issue, and his commitment to change. That should be a commitment that is shared by everyone here, but we will be talking about what has not happened here tonight as much as what has happened.

When I think about this issue, the issue of gun violence, which is an epidemic, it is also uniquely an American problem. No other country has this problem. In fact, America didn't have this problem for all of its history. Depending on where you start the clock, it is years old, if not a lot longer than that.

When I think about the issue and think about the debates we are having, sometimes we start with the names of communities, and we, unfortunately, have them memorized. So many communities are known for so much—so much that is positive about their culture, about their history, and about

their future, and the dynamism of some of our great communities.

There are some communities that have all that but also now have attached to their history—I hope not forever but certainly for a period of time—that that city, that community, was a place where an act of gun violence occurred that was of such a scale that the American people focused on that one community for a sustained period of time because of a mass shooting.

Of course, we should be remembering all of the examples on a night like tonight, where it doesn't reach the level of a mass shooting by way of victims or carnage but also as a place we should remember when one person dies on a dark street in the middle of the night or a child is injured or in fact killed, but it may not be counted as a mass shooting.

You know all the names now. Just this summer we have added several more, as everyone knows. I will not go through all the events—these horrific, tragic events—but it is important to remember the names of the communities, and then, of course, I want to talk about some of the people.

Whether it is El Paso or Dayton or Odessa-Midland—many years ago, it was Columbine, it was Newtown, CT, Virginia Tech, Las Vegas, Parkland, Aurora, CO, Orlando, and, more recently, Gilroy, CA, and Virginia Beach. I have left a lot off. That is just a handful in the last number of years.

So we think about this issue in terms of those who were lost or those whose lives have been irreparably damaged, sometimes irreparably damaged, permanently damaged because of the injury—an injury they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Of course, you don't have to be physically injured to sustain an injury by way of the impact on your psyche. I can't even imagine, can't even begin to imagine, nor can most people imagine the horror of being anywhere near a mass shooting.

Tonight we remember those victims and their families and those communities. We also remember the individual people who were lost, the individual families who were affected—mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters, children. In so many of these instances, children are directly affected or indirectly, but that indirect affect means they lost a parent or they lost a sibling or they lost something in that moment that they will be permanently scarred by for the rest of their lives.

I want to focus on two groups of people tonight. We could spend hours talking about so many Americans. One will be parochial in the sense that it is about my home State of Pennsylvania, and the other will be at the other end of the age scale about children who were lost in December of 2012.

I will start with the most recent for Pennsylvania. We have had, obviously, example after example—too many to count, hundreds and hundreds—over the last couple of years where someone was killed or injured.

We, thankfully, have not had multiple mass shootings, but just a couple of weeks ago in the city of Philadelphia, on about the same day that a guy was gunned down in Philadelphia, there was a standoff in a Philadelphia neighborhood, where one gunman—because of the power of his weapon and because of the advantage he had of being behind closed doors—was able to hold off part of a police force because he was shooting indiscriminately with a high-powered weapon.

Thankfully, those six police officers who were injured—the injuries turned out to not be serious, and the police officers were released virtually on the same day. So we were blessed on that day.

Right across the street, a very narrow street, there was a childcare center that could have been the scene of horrific carnage if it had gone another way. Thankfully, those children were safe in that childcare center that wasn't a block away. It wasn't a half a block away. It was barely yards and feet away. That childcare center was less than the width of this Chamber away from where that shooter was stationed.

I will start with folks who were worshiping in the Tree of Life synagogue on a Saturday in October of 2018. I will not go through all of the details, but I think everyone by now knows what happened there. It was the worst act of violence against the Jewish community in American history that we know of.

In this case, these were the victims. My wife Terese was kind enough to suggest to me that when you have a list or something you want to remember an event by, you should probably frame it or preserve it in some fashion. She was kind enough to help me get this framed.

What I am holding here—you can't see it from any distance—is just a framed card with names of the victims. I will just read what it says so you know what I am talking about.

This card came from a newspaper, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and the date is October 29, 2018. They put this on the front page of the paper. All it says is ''Victims of the Synagogue Shooting,'' and then it lists each individual and their ages: Joyce Fienberg, 75; Richard Gottfried, 65; Rose Mallinger, 97; Jerry Rabinowitz, 66; Cecil Rosenthal, 59; David Rosenthal, 54; Bernice Simon, 84; Sylvan Simon, 86; Daniel Stein, 71; Melvin Wax, 87; and Irving Younger, 69.

So this was a group of Pittsburghers worshiping on the Sabbath in a synagogue. They were lost on that day because a hate-filled person came into that synagogue, intent by way of things he said and intent by way of the weapons he had and the ammunition he had, intent on killing as many members of that congregation as possible—so, basically, a congregation where the victims were ages 54 to 97.

That was one incident in my home State, and it seems like every State has a day like that where a community is torn apart.

Those folks were obviously at the other end of the age scale. How about folks a lot younger? This just happens to be a matted copy of a page in the Wall Street Journal from December of 2012 after the Newtown, CT, shooting that we all know, unfortunately, so much about—Sandy Hook Elementary School.

This is dated December 17, 2012. What the Wall Street Journal did was put a picture of each child with their name and their age and a little vignette about their young life.

I will not go through all of them tonight. I have referred to them in the past, and not every child had a picture ready at the time of this publication. These 20 children and 7 adults listed here are part of what we are talking about—the carnage that has enveloped our country over these last number of years.

I want to read their names tonight, and then I want to get to the legislation: Charlotte Bacon, 6; Daniel Barden, 7; Olivia Engel, 6; Josephine Gay, 7; Ana Marquez-Greene, 6; Catherine V. Hubbard, 6; Jesse Lewis, 6; Grace McDonnell, 7; Emilie Parker, 6; Noah Pozner, 6; Caroline Previdi, 6; Jessica Rekos, 6; Madeline F. Hsu, 6; Chase Kowalski 7; and James Mattioli, 6.

Then, there were several children who didn't have pictures at the time of this publication for the Wall Street Journal: Dylan Hockley, 6; Jack Pinto, 6; Avielle Richman, 6; Benjamin Wheeler, 6; and, Allison N. Wyatt, age 6.

When we talk about what we should do here and what we must do, we have to remember more than just a list of communities, which in a sense is about place, and it is about geography. We also have to remember those who were lost. I think we have to begin to ask ourselves some really fundamental questions, maybe in ways we don't often do even in this Chamber, even in this body, which is supposed to be the greatest deliberative body in the world.

This is a place where we should ask some of the questions that many of us have been asking. When we remember what those children suffered and what their families suffered, is it too much to ask if we can pass a background check bill that, as Senator BROWN and so many others have noted, is supported by more than 90 percent of the American people? Is it too much of a lift for the Senate to pass just one bill?

It is not a bill that is going to solve all the problems. We know that. Nobody is arguing that. But we know a recent example of where a background check bill might have been the difference between the gunman having a weapon and killing a number of Americans or not. That was Odessa and Midland. We have to do a lot more than

background checks, but let's start with what is in front of us.

You have a piece of legislation that has been sitting here for over 200 days—over 200 days. It came over from the House, H.R. 8. H.R. 8, in my judgment, is the best background check bill we have. There are other proposals, and we should debate them. But is it too much of a lift to say that we are going to debate and vote on H.R. 8, which closes the loopholes on these background checks and I think would do the best job of any proposal? Then, if someone has another proposal—I know that Senator MANCHIN and Senator TOOMEY have a proposal—let's debate that and vote on that too. If there is a third proposal, let's debate and vote on that. Let's get it right, or at least let's give the American people a chance to see whether or not this legislative body, this Senate, reflects the will of the American people—the overwhelming percentage of American people who support background checks.

We should also make sure there is an opportunity to debate and vote on the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act or another version of that. Let's make sure that happens.

I don't think we are asking the majority leader to take on a challenge that he hasn't already committed to. What I heard Majority Leader MCCONNELL say in August was that when we come back, we will debate and vote on at least those two measures. I think that was a pretty clear promise. If we did that, would every problem be solved? No. Would gun violence be substantially reduced in a matter of weeks or months? No. No one is making that claim. But at least we could say that we made some progress in reducing the likelihood of greater gun violence.

I think the bigger question here that we have to ask over and over, until we act or at least begin to act, is this: Is there nothing that we can do? Because that is part of the argument by those who say no on background checks, those who say no on extreme risk protection orders, no on a limitation on the magazines and the number of bullets you can shoot at any one time, which Senator BROWN referred to. In Dayton, in 32 seconds, 9 people were killed and about 25 injured. In 32 seconds, the police officers got there faster than superman could get there, and that wasn't fast enough because of the power of the weapon and because of the amount of ammunition.

There is nothing we can do about that, we are told. We are told over and over, here and around the country, where disciples of this point of view have their time to debate, that there is nothing that the most powerful country in the history of the human race can do to make sure that doesn't happen in another American city, or at least take action to reduce the likelihood that that would happen in another American city.

So there is apparently nothing, according to this argument, that this great Nation of ours can do to prevent someone from, in 32 seconds, killing 9 people and injuring, I guess, about 25.

What haunted me, among many things—and I am sure it haunted many Americans at the time of the December 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, shooting—was that the evidence indicated, according to an NBC News report at the time, which I was watching on my television at home in Scranton, PA, that there was evidence that the killer, after killing 20 children and several adults, was moving to the next classroom. We know that hundreds of children were in that school. I don't know the exact number, but it wasn't just a school of 20 children. A lot more than 20 were in that school.

Again, as for taking this argument that there is nothing we can do except to enforce existing law, we hear over and over that we can't do anything and that we have to enforce existing law. That is the argument. They have been making this argument for decades. Based upon that argument, there is nothing we could have done in that instance, either, to prevent someone from killing 20 children or hundreds of children in 1 school, and then maybe several months later going to another school and killing hundreds of children.

Does anyone really believe that there is no law, no action you can take to at least reduce the likelihood that that will not happen in the United States of America? We don't believe that because we call ourselves Americans. We have never had that attitude. Think of our history. Think of what happened in the last century, if we had that point of view: nothing we can do about this threat in Europe; nothing we can do to advance medical research, because we just have to accept the fact and try to nibble around the edges.

No one really believes that. So that argument is getting pretty tired—that enforcement of existing law is the answer here.

This is a uniquely American problem. No country has this problem. It has been building and building for years and decades. By inaction we allow the problem to get a lot worse, and it is about as bad as it gets right now. Huge numbers of Americans now—not like 5 percent or 8 percent, but like 40 percent of Americans now—believe that they can be a victim of gun violence. Forty percent of a country of over 300 million people believes that because of what they have seen. But again, the answer here from one side over and over is that there is nothing we can do, as more and more people believe they could be a victim next.

You saw the footage for the news coverage of children going off to school at the start of this school year with their backpacks with a protective shield, like a Kevlar shield—I am not sure exactly what it is, but I saw the reports—in their backpack. An American child has to go to school and have armor-plated backpacks in America—that is not happening anywhere else—because their parents are worried about them going to school. Now we have to worry about where you go to school, where you worship, where you go for entertainment, and what public event do you not want to go to, because the U.S. Senate, for years now, hasn't voted on a series of gun bills in years. I guess people should get used to being afraid and wondering if they will be next or their children will be next.

In essence, what they are telling us on the other side, when they say no to background checks, absolutely not—that is what they are saying—and no to any kind of action, is that the most powerful country in the world should surrender to this problem. That is what it is. It is surrendering to this problem—that there is nothing that this country can do to make sure that you never have a full page of a newspaper with 20 children listed there ages 6 and 7 years old. That is not America. That is not who we are or, at least, it is not who we claim to be.

I would say in conclusion—and I know I am well over my time—that the least we can do—this isn't hard, guys—is to debate and vote. Debate and vote—is that hard? It is not that strenuous—to debate and vote on background checks, to debate and vote on extreme risk protection orders. I would go further than that, but we don't have time for that tonight. Let's debate and vote. We are not going to wait. Why would we wait for the President to give us the high sign about what he will sign into law?

This Chamber should not wait for any other official. We should debate and vote and see where things are. The American people will sort it out after we vote, and they will know who is on the record voting which way. But at least let's give them something to indicate that we are Americans. We don't surrender to problems. We don't surrender to big problems. We don't surrender to problems from an enemy, from a disease, and from an epidemic called gun violence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I thank my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue and his very clear remarks and call to action. I am also very pleased to be here on the floor with my friend the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. MURPHY, who has been at the forefront of this battle for many years. We will not let up until we see meaningful action here in the Senate, because we have an epidemic of gun violence in this country.

The only question is, What are we going to do about it? We have seen 293 mass shootings in the last 9 months. We see people being killed by gun violence in our streets and in our neighborhoods every day. All told, 100 of our fellow Americans die from gun violence every day. It can happen anytime, anywhere, to anybody. It can happen in

our schools, our movie theaters, our homes, our concerts, our bars, our shopping centers, our streets. No one is immune or free from this violence.

If this were an epidemic caused by a preventable disease, this Congress would convene on an emergency basis. We would be having a bipartisan gathering to immediately pass legislation to help discover new cures and vaccines for whatever disease was killing 100 of our fellow Americans every day. When it comes to gun violence, here in the U.S. Senate, there is nothing, no action.

Inaction is complicity. It is complicity in the carnage when we know there are commonsense measures we can take together to reduce the gun violence. Are we going to stop every single gun death? No. But we know that these commonsense measures can save thousands of American lives. Yet we do nothing here in the Senate. That is despite the fact that we have at the desk a bill that was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives 202 days ago. I have a copy of that bill in my hand. It is H.R. 8. If you look at it, it says: ''Read the second time'' and ''Placed on . . . Calendar.'' For people who may be listening in, what it means to be placed on the calendar is that it is here at the desk in the U.S. Senate. It means we could take it up anytime. We could take it up right now.

In fact, now I am holding what is called the Calendar of Business for Tuesday, September 17, 2019. If you look at it—No. 29, H.R. 8—how does it describe H.R. 8? Very simply, ''An act to require a background check for every firearm sale.'' It is very simple. It is something supported by over 90 percent of the American people, regardless of party.

I have in my hand a copy of the U.S. Constitution. I want to read article I, section 1, because it is very straightforward. It says: ''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.''

The House of Representatives has acted. As I said, H.R. 8, a bill for universal background checks, is at the Senate desk. It is the Senate that hasn't acted. Yet I heard the Republican leader said as recently as today at a press event, when asked when the Senate was going to take up gun safety legislation, when we are going to take up universal background checks, ''Ask them,'' meaning ask the President, ask the executive branch. I don't know when we, the U.S. Senate, contracted out our constitutional responsibilities to the executive branch and to the gun lobby and others when we have it in our power right here tonight to take up a lifesaving measure.

The majority leader also said that we are in a holding pattern. What are we holding for as more and more Americans die—100 per day—from gun violence?

In my State of Maryland, we have been the victims, like every other State, of people dying by guns. We had a mass shooting. It was at the Capital Gazette newspaper. Five souls were taken. We had a school shooting in Maryland, at Great Mills High School in Southern Maryland. Every day, we see people in Maryland being harmed by gun violence in our streets and neighborhoods.

Maryland has actually done something about it. As a State, we passed some important gun measures. We closed the gun show loophole. We require universal background checks in Maryland. We have actually banned semiautomatic assault weapons—a law that was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. We require a permit to purchase a gun.

Someone might ask: OK, well, Maryland has passed these laws, the State. Why do you have a gun violence problem?

If you look at the figures from the ATF, if you look at their gun-tracing statistics, you find that 54 percent of crimes committed in Maryland with a gun come from guns from outside the State of Maryland, from our surrounding States. Maryland is not an island; we are part of the United States of America. Our State can pass sensible gun laws. We can help reduce the carnage in Maryland, and we have. Until we act as a country, until we pass universal background checks, Maryland will continue to be vulnerable to the negligence of other States and most of all, the negligence of the U.S. Senate, which has refused to act.

The President knows where the American people are on this issue. After we have a mass shooting, the President always makes public comments about how he is going to do something about it, including addressing background checks. After the slaughters in El Paso and Dayton, on his way to visit those grieving communities, the President said: ''I'm looking to do background checks. I think background checks are important.'' He went on to say: ''I think we can bring up background checks like we never had before.''

After the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, he called some Members of Congress to the White House, including Senator MURPHY. Senator MURPHY talked about the importance of background checks. The President told him: You know, we have a new President now, and we are going to work together to get this done. We have a different attitude.

That is what the President always says after a terrible shooting, but then the President gets a call from the NRA, gets a call from the gun lobby, and you get a headline like this one, which we saw on August 20, 2019: ''NRA Gets Results . . . in One Phone Call With Trump.'' The President knows how the country feels. The President knows the country wants action. The President knows the country wants the Senate to act, so he says those things publicly, but then he gets a phone call from the gun lobby, and then he backpedals. That is where we are now, with the Senate stalling, pretending, going through these sorts of fake actions, pretending we are going to get there.

I hope we do get there, but what the President has said and done in the past gives me no confidence, which is why I come back to the very place I started, which is that this body, the U.S. Senate, has its own responsibilities under the Constitution. The Constitution—article I—gives the House and the Senate the lawmaking power, not the President of the United States. We shouldn't be looking down Pennsylvania Avenue and saying ''What is the President thinking?'' before we take action to help save lives.

We are the U.S. Senate. We now have right in front of us at the desk, right here, a bill that will save lives, passed by the House of Representatives 202 days ago. It is for universal background checks.

Senator MCCONNELL and other Senators—if they don't want to support the position taken by 90 percent of the American people, then they can vote no on H.R. 8. If the majority leader doesn't think the people of Kentucky support H.R. 8, it is his prerogative to vote no. That is the right of every Senator. What is outrageous is blocking every other Senator in this body from exercising their right to represent their constituents and help save lives around the country.

We support the voices of 90 percent of the American people, who want us to take action to reduce gun violence in the United States of America, to address this like the epidemic it is and to address it like we would address a disease epidemic that was killing 100 of our fellow Americans every day.

Let's stop ignoring our responsibilities. Let's stop pointing to the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. There is really no time to wait. ''Thoughts and prayers'' will not end the gun violence. Senate action and a vote on H.R. 8 can help save lives in the United States of America. Every single day that goes by that we don't take that vote is a day that this body is complicit in more deaths by gun violence.

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I want to recognize my friend and colleague Senator MURPHY for his moral leadership on this issue and for continuously demanding that all of us do better and that all of us do more to address what is an epidemic of gun violence.

We are here tonight and through the night to call on Leader MCCONNELL to do a very simple thing, which is to bring background check legislation and other gun safety legislation to the Senate floor for a vote.

Forty thousand Americans had their lives cut short by guns last year. Forty

thousand Americans died. It is unthinkable that we would allow mass violence to occur in our country with this type of frequency. What is shocking is that not only do we accept this as part of the American way of life—as though it were enshrined in the Constitution that we must have this amount of violence in order to have our Second Amendment rights—but that we allowed the question of what to do to keep our people safe to turn into a partisan question. The Democrats are out here on the floor saying: Why don't we figure out what we can do to make people safer? And on the other side of the Chamber, there is no one.

This isn't the first time this has happened or the second time or the third time or the fifth time. When we come down to the floor to demand action on gun safety, we have no dance partner.

It shouldn't be this way, especially given where the public is.

I don't just mean Democrats or Independents. Americans of all stripes, Democratic and Republican gun owners, agree that commonsense gun safety reforms are the way forward. This means background checks. It means no guns for violent criminals or domestic abusers and no guns for anyone who could endanger themselves or endanger others.

About 90 percent of all Americans support these very sensible reforms. Here is the thing. They support them not for purely ideological reasons or partisan reasons; the reason these things pull 85, 90 percent of all Americans, even among NRA members, is because, A, it doesn't infringe on your Second Amendment rights, and, B, it works.

It is no coincidence that the two steepest drops in murder rates in our country came right after the passage of two sets of significant gun laws: The first were the national firearms control acts of 1934 and 1938, and the second were the background checks and assault weapons ban bills in 1993 and 1994. Those legislative efforts, and the decrease in violence that followed their passage, prove that progress is possible.

Here is the thing. Whenever we get into this conversation, we get into kind of trying to figure out whether whatever law we are trying to pass would retroactively be able to fix whichever moment of silence we are now focused on and sad about and despairing about. That is not the way to look at this.

Sure, there are individual situations, where, if we pass background checks, it would absolutely help, but it is also a matter of the Federal Government putting some parameters on the kinds of guns that you can get and the requirements in order to own a gun.

What is happening? Why are we still stuck? Why are we still stuck? Republicans in the Senate are just waiting on the White House. It is as simple as that.

This isn't some partisan attack from me, a partisan Democrat. This is literally what Leader MCCONNELL said. He said he will not schedule a vote or schedule a debate on the House-passed bill to expand background checks for gun purchases because President Trump has indicated he will not sign it. According to Leader MCCONNELL: ''[I]f the President took a position on a bill so that we knew we would actually be making a law and not having serial votes, [he would] be happy to put it on the floor.''

Let me just say, that is not actually how the Senate is supposed operate. We are supposed to originate the legislation. We are supposed to be the world's greatest deliberative body. We are supposed to determine what kind of law to make. We are not supposed to play ''Mother, may I'' with the President of the United States and wait for clearance before we even initiate a debate.

The idea that, in this body, where today we voted on the UAE Ambassador, the Ambassador to Sweden, I think—not that those are unimportant matters—but we had full postcloture debate time when, basically, we were in a quorum call—we were in a quorum call; no one was talking—we cannot afford to set aside 30 hours or 50 hours or 2 weeks of Senate time to figure out what to do about the gun violence epidemic? Shame on us.

Congress should be taking up bills, debating them, passing them, and the President can make his decision about whether to sign or veto them. We cannot wait for President Trump on this because he is deeply, deeply inconsistent, not just generally speaking but specifically on the question of gun safety.

In the immediate aftermath of every horrific shooting, the President talked about doing something meaningful to address gun violence, but then he backtracked.

In February of 2018, in the wake of the horrific shooting at Parkland, President Trump said: ''[W]e're going to be very strong on background checks.'' A year later and 2 days before the House passed legislation that would require universal background checks for most gun purchases and transfers, Trump threatened to veto the bill if it passed.

In February of 2018, during a televised meeting with lawmakers, the President proposed raising the age for buying assault rifles from 18 to 21, and then he backtracked.

More recently, following the shootings in Texas and Ohio that left 29 dead and dozens wounded, Trump tweeted on August 5 that Washington ''must come together'' to ''get strong background checks.'' That sounds pretty good.

On August 19, just 14 days later, he reversed course. When talking with reporters, he used an NRA-approved talking point: ''[J]ust remember, we already have a lot of background checks,'' and he warned of gun control's ''slippery slope.''

The President has a long history of changing his position on guns. In 2011, he was against gun control. In 2013, he supported background checks. A year after that, he protested against background checks for gun purchases in New York State. This is just how he rolls, specifically, on this issue but frankly on a lot of stuff. You could say the same thing about having an honest broker as it relates to immigration. He is just not reliable. That is how he rolls.

We don't have to be downstream from all of that. We are the article I branch. We can do what we decide to do as the so-called world's greatest deliberative body.

To make it worse, in the weeks since the attacks in Ohio and Texas, we keep hearing from Republicans that gun violence is not caused by guns. To quote the President directly: ''[M]ental illness and hatred pulls the trigger, not the gun.''

''[M]ental illness and hatred pulls the trigger, not the gun.'' I want to spend a little time on this one because this one is really offensive and really deeply hurtful. Setting aside the lack of progress on guns, we are also losing 10, 20, 30 years of progress we have made destigmatizing mental health services.

Mass shooters and regular people experience mental illness at the same rate. There is no indication that mass shooters or individual people who are homicidal experience mental illness at any higher rate than your general population. Blaming the mentally ill is just factually untrue, but it is more insidious than that.

About 20 percent of all Americans at some point need some mental health services. The great difficulty in terms of getting mental health services is not just the availability of care; it is also that people still feel embarrassed to say: I need some help.

Shame on the President of the United States to equate someone who may need care for postpartum depression or post-traumatic stress coming back from Iraq or Afghanistan, or who may experience bipolar disorder, or whatever it may be—a kid with autism—to imply that people who need mental health services are somehow dangerous and that they are the ones who should be cracked down on. That is a deeply, deeply dangerous thing to say about 20 percent of all Americans who simply need to get better and who simply need to not be characterized as crazy or dangerous or that they should be ashamed of what they are experiencing. Shame on the President of the United States for equating mental illness with being dangerous to society.

Consider for a minute the progress we have made as a society to destigmatize mental health. We have fundamentally changed the way we talk about it, and because of that, we have helped to reduce the shame around living with mental health challenges, and more people are willing to prioritize their mental well-being. People should not be embarrassed or scared to seek the help they need, and

they certainly shouldn't be blamed for the gun violence epidemic in our country.

I want to read a letter from a Hawaii resident, Elizabeth Sader from Lahaina, Maui. She writes:

> Two mass shootings in 24 hours. This cannot be our new norm. We need change. . . . We can no longer assume heading to the store, an event, or school is safe anymore.
>
> There are places in the United States that make it easier to get a gun than it is to adopt a pet at a local animal shelter. This is not right.
>
> We need sensible gun laws in this country. We need better systems in place to prevent this from happening again. I cannot imagine what the world is going to look like for children growing up today.

The Senate has the power to save lives and protect more of our kids by enacting sensible reforms. What we need is for Republicans to do the right thing and to rise to the moment. Thousands of people are dying every month. We cannot wait for the President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, let me thank, once again, my colleagues for being on the floor with us this evening, for the compelling testimony of Senator SCHATZ, Senator CASEY, Senator BROWN, Senator VAN HOLLEN, and so many others who have joined us this evening. We have a few more who will come down later in the evening.

I want to take a moment to put a face on this issue. There are 100 Americans who are killed every day by guns. The majority of these are suicides, but many are homicides, and many are accidental shootings and domestic homicides.

Shootings in this country happen at a rate 10 times that of any other high-income nation. This is a uniquely American epidemic. Senator SCHATZ very aptly pointed out that it can't be because of mental health because we have no more mental illness in this country than any other nation does. It can't be because of lack of law enforcement resources; we spend just as much money, if not more, on law enforcement than any other country in the world. It is not because we put less money into treatment for mental illness; we put more money, on a per capita basis, than other nations do.

To explain our abnormally high rate of gun violence—10 times that of other high-income nations—you have to tell a story of the proliferation of dangerous weapons, of the ability of almost anyone, regardless of their criminal history or their history of mental illness, to get their hands on a weapon. Nowhere else in the high-income world is it so easy to get your hands on a weapon and often a weapon of mass destruction.

Leo Spencer was born an only child. He grew up in Bridgeport, CT, but he was far from an only child in his mind. His cousins were like his siblings. He spent summer after summer after summer with them in Boston, in Connecticut, in Cape Verde, and in St. Thomas. He was known as ''Lil Bill.'' His friends described him affectionately as an amazing person, a phenomenal soul, the greatest friend they ever had, and the best family member they knew.

A family member said Leo was ''a simple man who loved to keep to himself, but deep down inside he was a free spirit that wanted nothing more than to make people laugh. Always joking around, he kept us on our toes, and his smile lit up the room.''

Another friend said:

> Never one to follow trends, Leo was intent on making his own path through hard work and unparalleled ambition. He was a creative soul with a deep love for expressing himself through music and loved fiercely without bounds.

Leo placed a priority on making sure his family and friends were happy. He made each person feel like they were the most important person in the world. He loved his parents. He did everything he could for them. He wanted to take care of his mom the way she took care of him.

On September 8 of 2019, just a few days ago, Leo was shot in the head and the neck while sitting in the passenger seat of a friend's car. His friend hit the accelerator and drove him as fast as he could to Bridgeport Hospital, but he was pronounced dead shortly thereafter.

Leo Spencer is 1 of the 100 Americans who die every day from gun violence. It is so much bigger than Leo. I mentioned Leo's cousins, his family members, and his friends. Their lives will never be the same either, forever altered.

Studies show that when 1 person dies from a gunshot wound, there are 20 other people who experience life-altering trauma. It becomes a cycle that becomes hard to get out of.

I will talk a little bit later about Sandy Hook, CT, but Sandy Hook will never ever be the same—never—after what that community has been through.

Leo, whether he knew it or not, may already have been affected by gun violence because when you grow up in places like Bridgeport, where kids literally fear for their lives when they are walking to and from school, the trauma associated with the fear of losing your life from gun violence ruins your brain. We call this a public health epidemic, not to be cute with our words but because that is exactly what it is.

When you don't know whether you are going to make it through the rest of the week as a child—and studies show that, criminally, a high number of young people of color in this country living in urban environments that are violent don't believe they are going to live past 25 years old—when that is your belief, something happens to your brain.

Most of us in this Chamber have probably confronted only once or twice in our lives a fight-or-flight moment. That is a moment in your life where you face a risk that is so great, a danger that is so acute, that you have to make a decision in a split second: Do you fight or do you run? Our bodies are designed to rush into our brains a hormone called cortisol that helps us make that quick decision.

Many of us may never have actually faced that moment, and, frankly, I don't hope that anyone ever has. But when you grow up in a place like the east end of Bridgeport, you face that decision: Fight or flee on a weekly basis.

What doctors will tell you is that the brains of these kids who grow up in these neighborhoods are literally bathed in cortisol. Cortisol, when it comes in and out in an instant once or twice in your life, can be helpful. But when it is flowing through your circuitry on a regular basis, it literally corrupts your brain. It corrupts your brain. So it is no coincidence that all of the ''underperforming'' schools in this country are in the violent neighborhoods because these kids show up with brains that cannot learn, brains that cannot cope and cannot create lasting relationships, brains that have been atrophied by the daily fear for their lives and their daily experience. This Congress has done nothing—nothing—to address their reality.

We are here on the floor today to tell you about people like Leo so that maybe our colleagues who aren't responding to the numbers may respond to the stories of those lives that have been lost.

Let me tell you another one. Over the winter, we shut down the government for an unacceptable period of time. We were all figuring out what to do with our days when we weren't legislating. I decided one day to take a trip to Baltimore.

Baltimore, in some years, has been the most violent city in the country with the most kids who are going through this life-altering cycle of trauma. But I had heard about a program in an elementary school that was teaching kids how to be entrepreneurs and was giving them a vision for their lives after growing up in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Baltimore. They are trying to give them a pathway or a ray of sunshine in their lives.

I went up to talk to the person who ran that program. Her name is Joni Holifield. She and I sat down in a classroom on the second floor of Matthew Henson Elementary School, and she started to explain to me her path out of the corporate world into programming for kids at schools like Matthew Henson and what she thought that program could bring to those kids.

In the middle of this conversation, the intercom starts blaring a recorded message: code green, code green, code green. I didn't know what a code green was. Joni didn't know what a code green was. Shortly thereafter, a teacher opened the door to our classroom and yelled: Shut the blinds. Turn off the lights.

We did as instructed, and we sat there a little nervous, not knowing what a code green was. Shortly thereafter, someone from the main office, knowing that there was a U.S. Senator in a second floor classroom, called up. Joni answered the phone and was told that a code green means there has been a shooting in the proximity of the school and that the school is on lockdown.

The day that I was there at this elementary school in Baltimore, there was a shooting within a block or two of the school. Here is what I found out. That morning there had been a delay in school starting. It had snowed that morning, so I walked in with all the rest of the kids at around 9:30, 10 o'clock. About the same time that I was showing up at the school that morning, a young man by the name of Corey Dodd brought his two little twin girls to school. He was doing the drop-off for his wife, who was home tending to their relatively newborn child.

Corey decided to bring the kids to school that morning himself. He drove home a couple of blocks away after dropping the twins off, probably right about the time that I was walking upstairs to the second floor. When he got out of his car, he was shot to death.

One of his other little daughters always sits at the door waiting for her dad to come home, and she was there waiting for Corey. Her mom had to tell her that her dad was never coming home. He had been shot outside of their house that morning.

As that code green was happening inside that elementary school—and the kids were probably having a little bit of fun, wondering when the lights were going to come back on—there were two little girls who were never going to see their father again and who were going to be told in a matter of hours that this shooting had taken the life of their dad. And every single kid in that school was going to be wondering: Is it going to be my dad next? Is it going to be my mom next? That cycle of trauma and that cortisol that bathes kids' brains were going to be reality once again for all of these kids in this neighborhood. That is just one day that I happened to be in Baltimore.

Imagine that it isn't just coincidence. Imagine that is the reality day after day after day for kids all across this country. Why are we doing nothing? Why are we sitting on our hands? Why are my Republican colleagues waiting for the President to give them direction?

It would be one thing if we didn't know what to do—if we were overflowing with compassion for those two little twin girls in Baltimore, MD, and for the family of Leo Spencer in Bridgeport and we just couldn't figure out what would make the situation better. That is not the case.

We know what will make the situation better. There is no mystery about it. In my State of Connecticut, we passed a law requiring all handgun buyers to pass a background check as part of the permit process. Studies show that there was a 40 percent reduction in the gun homicide rate after Connecticut passed that law.

You might say: OK, well, that is just one State. And 40 percent—that is pretty serious. That is a pretty big return on one change in the law. Give me another State, you say.

OK, let's take a look at Missouri, which did the opposite. A few years ago, it repealed its purchase permit law that requires you to get a background check with every sale of a weapon in Missouri. Guess what happened. A year later, gun homicides went up by 23 percent, controlling for every other factor that could have explained it. In fact, during that period of time, gun homicide rates were going down in all the States around Missouri, and they went up in Missouri.

Then they found out that, in fact, in other States, what did go up in those other States was the number of weapons used in crimes that came from Missouri because all of a sudden you didn't need a background check in Missouri. So if you wanted to traffic guns from another State, Missouri was the place to get them.

Across the board, when you look at all of the States' experiences, you don't get 40 percent and 23 percent everywhere, but, on average, States that have background checks have 15 percent lower homicide rates than States that don't have them.

If we did this on a national basis, even States that have universal background checks would benefit. Why? Because the guns that are being used in Connecticut aren't coming from Connecticut. They are coming from States with—you guessed it—no universal background checks.

The guns being used in Chicago don't come from Chicago. The guns being used for crimes in New York City don't come from New York City. One percent of guns used in crimes in New York City come from New Jersey. Do you know why? New Jersey has universal background checks. Those guns are coming up from South Carolina and Georgia and places where you can go to a gun show and get a whole truckload of guns without having to ever go through a background check.

Background checks work. They are the most impactful public policy measure. Since the background check law was passed in the midnineties, over 3.5 million sales have been blocked to violent criminals and other prohibited individuals, and that is just the tip of the iceberg because those are the people who actually have the gall to set foot in a gun store, knowing that they have an offense in their history that would prohibit them from buying a gun—maybe not, knowing that. But these are the people who went into the gun store and tried to buy a gun and got denied. There are millions and millions more people who wanted guns but couldn't get them and didn't go into the gun store in the first place.

The problem is, today, getting that denial from the gun store is not really a barrier to buying a gun because 20, 30 percent of gun sales now happen without a background check. They happen in a private sale between one person and another. They happen at gun shows, which are forums that don't require, under Federal law, background checks.

A man in Odessa, TX, failed a background check because he had been diagnosed by a clinician as seriously mentally ill. That didn't stop him from getting a gun. He just found a private seller; he found another way. The private seller gave him a gun and didn't require him to go through a background check. He took that gun, and he used it to kill 7 people and injure 20 more.

I don't think you have to pass a law to fit the last mass shooting. I think that is a ridiculous trap that people try to put us in. This isn't the only mass shooting in which universal background checks could have changed the outcome. One of the first mass shootings that sits in my consciousness is that in Columbine as another example of a shooter who got a gun outside the background check system who couldn't have gotten one through it.

So whether you want anecdotal evidence or statistical data, I have it all. Background checks work. Here is what is so maddening. People love background checks. Apple pie, baseball, and grandma—none of them are as popular as background checks are. Ninety percent of Americans like background checks. Show me any other public policy today in the United States of America that gets 90 percent support in this country; 80 percent of gun owners and 70 percent of NRA members, everybody wants background checks—universal background checks. They don't want Manchin-Toomey, which just expands background checks to commercial sales. They want H.R. 8. They want H.R. 8, which has passed the House of Representatives and has been sitting on the floor of the U.S. Senate for 202 days. That is what Americans want. Ninety percent of Americans support H.R. 8.

Don't tell me that this issue is controversial. It is just controversial in this bubble. It is not controversial out in the American public, and it is not a blue State or a red State issue. Background checks are just as popular in Georgia as they are in Connecticut.

As Senator SCHATZ said, we don't have to wait for the President to tell us what to do. Senator MCCONNELL has a different copy of the Constitution than I have. My copy of the Constitution says that none of us are required to get permission slips from the President before we act or before we do something that we think is good for the country.

It is wild to me how the Republican leadership is so eager to advertise that the Senate will do nothing unless President Trump gives it permission. He is not the most popular guy. I don't

know why my friends on the Republican side would just openly admit that they don't act unless the President tells them it is OK. That is not how it has to be. We can make the decision ourselves, and on this one, every single person here should do it because it is the right thing, and it is also going to win you a lot of support back home.

I have a few more colleagues who want to say a few words, and then I may wrap up at the end. I want to finish, in my last 5 minutes or so, by reading something to you. I apologize to my friend Neil Heslin because I made a commitment to read this every Father's Day after the shooting in Sandy Hook. I forgot to do it this year. This is a makeup effort.

I don't want to talk too much about what happened at Sandy Hook this evening. I have spent plenty of time talking to my colleagues about it.

Unfortunately, there is a macabre club of Senators and Congressmen who have now had to walk with their communities through these horrific mass shootings. Maybe there is not another one like Sandy Hook where 26 7-year-olds lost their lives in a matter of 5 minutes, but they are all terrible. They are all awful.

One of the things that happens in the wake of these mass atrocities is that you get to know the victims' families. You get to know the parents, the brothers, and the sisters. They become friends of yours. I feel like I have a personal obligation to the families of Sandy Hook separate and aside from the global obligation I believe I have to human beings in this country to do something about the issue of gun violence.

Amongst the parents, one of those whom I have become closest to is a gentleman by the name of Neil Heslin. Jesse Lewis was one of the children who lost their lives that day. Neil has had an up-and-down life—an up-and-down life. He would admit that to you. It hasn't been an easy life for Neil. Jesse was Neil's best friend, not just his son.

I tell his story every Father's Day because it is a reminder to all of us who are fathers how none of us are protected from this. Neil thought he was. Neil never ever thought this would happen to him, but it did. It is a reminder that but for the good grace of God, any of us could be a victim, any of us could know a victim. So why sit on our hands and do nothing when we could do something?

Let me finish by reading an excerpt from Neil Heslin's testimony that he gave to the U.S. Senate in February 2013, 2 months after his son was shot, and I will wrap up after I finish this page and a half of his testimony.

My name is Neil Heslin. Jesse Lewis was my son. He was a boy that loved life and lived it to the fullest. He was my best friend. On December 14, he lost his life at Sandy Hook Elementary because of a gun that nobody needs and nobody should have a right to have. I'm here to tell his story. I know what I am doing here today won't bring my son back, but I hope that maybe if you listen to what I say today and you do something about it—maybe nobody else will have to experience what I have experienced.

On December 14, Jesse got up and got ready for school. He was always excited to go to school. I remember on that day that we stopped at the Misty Vale Deli. It's funny the things you remember. I remember Jesse got the sausage, egg and cheese he always gets, with some hot chocolate. And I remember the hug he gave me when I dropped him off. He just held me, and he rubbed my back. I can still feel that hug.

And Jesse said ''It's going to be alright. Everything's going to be okay, Dad.'' Looking back, it makes me wonder. What did he know? Did he have some idea about what was about to happen? But at the time I didn't think much of it. I just thought he was being sweet.

He was always being sweet like that. He was the kind of kid who used to leave me voice messages where he'd sing me happy birthday even when it wasn't my birthday. I'd ask him about it, and he'd say ''I just wanted to make you feel happy.'' Half the time I felt like he was the parent and I was his son.

He had so much wisdom. He would know things, and I would have no idea how he knew. But whatever he said, it was always right. And he would remember things we'd done and places we'd been that I had completely forgotten about. I used to think of him as my tiny adult. He had this inner calm and maturity that just made me feel so much better when I was around him.

Other people felt it, too. Teachers would tell me about his laugh, how he made things at school more fun just by being there. If somebody was ever unhappy, Jesse would find a way to make him feel better. If he heard a baby crying he wouldn't stop until he got the kid to smile.

Jesse had this idea that you never leave people hurt. If you can help somebody, you do it. If you can make somebody feel better, you do it. If you can leave somebody a little better off, you do it.

They tell me that's how he died. I guess we still don't know exactly what happened at that school. Maybe we'll never know. But what people tell me is that Jesse did something different. When he heard the shooting, he didn't run and hide. He started yelling. People disagree on the last thing he said. One person who was there says he yelled ''run.'' Another person said he told everybody to ''run now.'' Ten kids from my son's class made it to safety. I hope to God something Jesse did helped them survive that day.

What I know is that Jesse wasn't shot in the back. He took two bullets. The first one grazed the side of his head, but that didn't stop him from yelling. The other hit him in the forehead. Both bullets were fired from the front. That means the last thing my son did was look Adam Lanza straight in the face and scream to his classmates to run. The last thing he saw was that coward's eyes.

Jesse grew up with guns, just like I did. I started shooting skeet when I was eight years old. My dad was vice president for years at a local gun club. . . . Jesse actually had an interest in guns. He had a bb gun. . . . I taught him gun safety. He knew it. He could recite it to you. He got it. And I think he would have got what we are talking about today. He liked looking at pictures of army guns, but he knew those [guns] weren't for him. Those were for killing people.

Before he died, Jesse and I used to talk about maybe coming to Washington someday. He wanted to go up the Washington monument. When we talked about it last year, Jesse asked if we could come and meet the President.

[I'm a] little cynical about politicians. But Jesse believed in you. He learned about you in school and he believed in you. I want to believe in you, too. I know you can't give me Jesse back. Believe me, if I thought you could, I would be asking you for that. But I want to believe that you will think about what I told you here today. I want to believe that you will think about it and then you will do something about it, whatever you can do to make sure that no other father has to see what I've seen. You can start by passing [legislation to take] these senseless weapons out of the hands of people like Adam Lanza.

Do something, he said. Do something. Seven years later, we haven't done anything.

So we are down here on the floor tonight begging our colleagues to put a bill on the floor. Amend it, debate it, do whatever you want, but let's not stay silent any longer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. We are here tonight when we should not be, because the epidemic, the pageant of gun violence in this country should have been addressed by us by now. We have not acted. We have not acted in large part because we are engaged in a bizarre, self-inflicted political experiment in this country in which we allow big special interests to use secret money in elections to manipulate our politics.

This ought to be easy. There have been 293 mass shootings since January 1, 2019—this year alone. These tragedies have galvanized the American public in support of sensible restrictions on guns, and the amount of agreement among the American public is astounding. Eighty-six percent of Americans support implementing what we call red flag laws that allow a judge to remove guns from someone who is determined to be a danger to himself or others. You could barely get 86 percent of the Senate to agree on the day of the week. Additionally, 89 percent support expanding Federal background checks to cover private sales and to close the gun show loophole, 86 percent support an assault weapons ban, and 70 percent support a ban on large-capacity magazines. These are large, popular majorities, and in a functional democracy, we would listen to them, we would hear them, we would honor them, and we would respond to this bloodshed. Why we have not done that takes us on a sordid crawl through the sewers of modern politics inhabited by the National Rifle Association.

The National Rifle Association spent $30 million supporting President Trump. No wonder they can undo all of our work with a simple phone call to the Oval Office. But it is much worse than that. Reports emerged last year that the NRA accepted money from foreign sources, including Russian banker and Putin ally Aleksandr Torshin, and spent that money in politics in America.

Senator WYDEN sent letters to the NRA and to the Treasury Department

about these reports. The NRA responded maintaining that it properly segregates any foreign donations so that they are not used for political purposes. Fat chance of that, with money being fungible. I joined Senator WYDEN on a followup letter renewing the request following the arrest of Maria Butina, an evident NRA go-between.

The IRS, under President Trump, took no action against the NRA in response to these allegations. In August, the Federal Election Commission deadlocked 2 to 2 on whether to investigate this matter at all. The FEC is so locked up on this now that they wouldn't even investigate.

FEC Commissioner Weintraub in desperation wrote:

> Some allegations are too serious to ignore. Too serious to simply take [the NRA's] denials at face value. Too serious to play games with. Yet in this matter, my colleagues ran their usual evidence-blocking play and the Commission's attorneys placed too much faith in the few facts [the NRA] put before us.

So we can't even look into the extent of Russian interference in our politics through the NRA.

It goes on. Last fall, the Campaign Legal Center and Giffords Center filed complaints with the Federal Election Commission alleging that the NRA was evading the anti-coordination rules of our election between the Trump campaign and with various Republican Senate campaigns. The complaints allege that the NRA and the campaigns coordinated spending through a GOP media consulting firm. What had the media consulting firm done? It had set up a series of shell corporations through which the campaigns paid.

We have all used media consulting firms in getting to the Senate. Which of those media consulting firms set up shell corporations?

In fact, these shell corporations—these supposedly separate companies—shared staff, office space, and other resources, so that the firm coordinated the ad buys between the NRA and the campaigns. Once again, the FEC did nothing, so the Campaign Legal Center had to sue the Federal Election Commission in district court.

The NRA's political spending has more than quintupled since the Supreme Court—I should say more specifically, since five Republican appointees on the Supreme Court—allowed unlimited, anonymous money into our political system—from $10 million in 2010, the year of the Citizens United decision, to about $55 million in the 2016 election. The NRA now spends unlimited amounts of dark money on political ads. They can come after people. They can threaten people. They can make promises to people. That is why 86 percent, 89 percent of the U.S. public gets ignored around here.

When Representative RASKIN and I wrote the NRA and the consultants about this coordination scheme, guess what the supposedly independent groups did? They wrote back to us in the same letter from the same lawyer—some independence. Of course, we are still waiting on the FEC to take any action at all.

By way of a visitor's guide to the sewer of modern politics inhabited by the NRA, I ask unanimous consent that a September 17 article from The Trace titled ''Guide to Every Known Investigation of the NRA'' be appended to my remarks as an exhibit.

I will close where I began. There have been 293 mass shootings since January 1 of this year, and the American public has an extraordinarily common voice for red flag laws, for expanding Federal background checks, closing the gun show loophole, banning assault weapons, and banning large-capacity magazines, and we don't listen to the popular will here because of the menace that the NRA has become in our politics—the anti-Democratic menace that the NRA has become.

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

[From the Trace, Sept. 17, 2019]

BANG FOR THE BUCK—A GUIDE TO EVERY KNOWN INVESTIGATION OF THE NRA

HERE ARE THE FACTS ABOUT ALL TEN ACTIVE INQUIRIES INTO THE GUN RIGHTS GROUP

(By Daniel Nass)

The National Rifle Association is caught up in a rapidly expanding tangle of investigations—eight launched this year alone. Investigators in the House, Senate, New York State, and D.C. are scrutinizing the gun group's nonprofit status following alleged financial misconduct exposed by The Trace, while other probes have their sights on the NRA's ties to Kremlin-linked Russians and to Donald Trump's presidential campaign, as well as several potential campaign finance violations.

Because it's challenging to keep track of these probes, we've rounded them up below. We included only investigations that directly involve the NRA or its staff. We'll keep this post updated to reflect the latest developments, and will add new investigations to the list, should they arise.

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

A fourth investigation of the NRA's nonprofit status is underway, this one initiated by D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine. Racine's office is seeking documents from the gun group and its affiliated foundation regarding ''financial records, payments to vendors, and payments to officers and directors.'' The NRA Foundation is chartered in Washington, D.C. NRA attorney William Brewer said in a statement that ''the NRA has full confidence in its accounting practices and commitment to good governance.''

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

Amid the ongoing strife between the NRA and its former communications firm Ackerman McQueen, another congressional committee is attempting to determine whether the NRA has violated its tax-exempt status. In a letter to Wayne LaPierre, House Ways and Means Committee member Representative Brad Schneider demanded documents related to internal audits, financial misconduct, and conflicts of interest. It's the third probe of the NRA's finances launched since The Trace and The New Yorker first reported on alleged financial improprieties in April. In August, Schneider expanded the inquiry, sending a letter to Ackerman CEO Revan McQueen requesting documents related to the firm's past relationship with the NRA.

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

Three Democratic members of the Senate Finance Committee, which oversees tax-exempt organizations, are probing alleged financial impropriety within the NRA. Letters addressed to NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre and ex-President Oliver North request documentation of alleged financial misconduct raised by North during a public power struggle for control of the gun group, which culminated with North's ouster from his leadership role. A third letter requests documentation from Revan McQueen, the CEO of top NRA vendor Ackerman McQueen, due to LaPierre's claim that Ackerman had prepared a damaging memo in order to blackmail him. The feud erupted after reporting by The Trace and other news organizations revealed a culture of self-dealing and financial mismanagement within the NRA, particularly around its relationship with Ackerman. The NRA has refused to cooperate with the investigation, and a letter from Ackerman McQueen to the senators indicates that the NRA has not given the vendor permission to share relevant materials.

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

New York Attorney General Letitia James has opened an investigation into the NRA's nonprofit status, asking the organization, its charitable foundation, and other affiliated groups to preserve financial records. The probe, first reported by The New York Times, also touches the gun group's ''related businesses,'' although information about the parties involved is not yet public. James has jurisdiction because the NRA was chartered in New York in 1871. In August, the attorney general's office expanded the inquiry, issuing subpoenas to more than 90 current and former NRA board members, including former president Oliver North.

The probe follows a series of media reports about financial misconduct within the NRA, including a Trace investigation detailing allegations that former IRS official Marc Owens said ''could lead to the revocation of the NRA's tax-exempt status.''

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

The NRA is among more than 80 organizations and individuals that received requests for documents as part of a wide-ranging House Judiciary Committee probe which aims to establish whether President Trump and those in his orbit have engaged in ''obstruction of justice, public corruption, and other abuses of power.'' A letter from committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler to NRA boss LaPierre demands information on the gun group's contacts with and about Russia and the Trump campaign during the run-up to the 2016 election. The NRA has reportedly submitted nearly 1,500 pages of documents in response to the request.

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

Representatives Ted Lieu and Kathleen Rice, concerned by a ''lack of transparency'' around the NRA's 2015 visit to Moscow and its other ties to Russia, have launched a new investigation intended to illuminate those connections. Another probe of the gun group's Kremlin connections is underway in the Senate, but House Democrats, unlike their counterparts in the Senate, hold the majority required to issue subpoenas.

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

A joint House-Senate probe is investigating possible ''illegal, excessive, and unreported in-kind donations'' made by the NRA to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and to several Republican Senate candidates. Sparked by The Trace's reporting, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Congressman Jamie Raskin have contacted NRA

Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre and five campaign advertising vendors to request information about the groups' relationships. ''The evidence shows the NRA is moving money through a complex web of shell organizations to avoid campaign finance rules and boost candidates willing to carry their water,'' Whitehouse told The Trace.

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

As part of a probe into security clearances issued by the Trump administration, House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings has requested documents from the NRA regarding Trump national security advisor John Bolton's contacts with Russia. In 2013, Bolton appeared in a video for The Right to Bear Arms, the Russian gun-rights group linked to Maria Butina and Alexander Torshin. He also headed the NRA's subcommittee on international affairs, which Cummings has also requested information about. The Oversight Committee investigation came months after Cummings and Representative Stephen Lynch first sought information from the White House about Bolton's ties to Russia.

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

An NRA delegation's trip to Moscow in 2015 is under the scrutiny of the Senate Intelligence Committee, headed by Senators Richard Burr and Mark Warner, which in November requested documents about contacts with high-profile Russians during the excursion. In January, investigators grilled former Trump aide Sam Nunberg about the links between the Trump campaign, the NRA, and Russian nationals including Maria Butina. Burr, the committee's chair, has received ample campaign support from the NRA.

WHAT'S UNDER INVESTIGATION

Senator Ron Wyden, the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, has sent a series of requests to the NRA and the Treasury Department seeking information about the gun group's financial ties to Russian official Alexander Torshin and other Putin-linked politicians. After the arrest of self-confessed Russian agent Maria Butina in July, Wyden and committee members Sheldon Whitehouse and Bob Menendez followed up with the Treasury requesting further information about Butina's financial links to the NRA. Butina later pleaded guilty to conspiring in the United States. Earlier this month, the Finance Committee launched a separate probe into a conservative think tank linked to Butina and Torshin. Senator Charles Grassley, who chairs the Finance Committee, has ties to the NRA.

A few other investigations bear mentioning. An inquiry by the House Intelligence Committee and the FBI's reported investigation of Alexander Torshin both probed the gun group's ties to Russia, although there is no hard evidence that the NRA or its employees have been pulled into either of those probes. Watchdog organizations have filed a series of complaints with the Federal Election Commission regarding the NRA's campaign finance activities, and two groups are now suing the regulator for its failure to act on those complaints.

We'll update this post as new information comes to light.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise tonight to join the chorus of Democratic Senators in this Chamber demanding action to address the American gun violence epidemic. We stand here tonight on behalf of the tens of millions of Americans, from one end of the country to the other, who are crying out for change.

Every few months, it seems that our Nation is rocked by another horrifying mass shooting. El Paso and Dayton are only the latest entries in our national register of tragedy, a list that stretches from Parkland to Pittsburgh, Charleston to Columbine, Aurora to Orlando, Blacksburg to Binghamton, San Bernardino to Sandy Hook, and to Las Vegas. Because that ever-growing list can sometimes seem abstract, let's not forget about the specific places where these awful shootings occurred: movie theaters and night clubs, shopping malls and office parks, music festivals and traffic stops, churches, synagogues, mosques, colleges, high schools, and an elementary school.

Our hearts remain with the families of the victims and the survivors of these mass shootings whose lives were turned upside down in an instance by mad men who never should have had access to a gun. The touching letter that Senator MURPHY read from one of his constituents whose child died in Sandy Hook is just one of many testaments to that turning upside down—instantly ruining your life forever by one of these horrible, awful incidents.

At the same time, our hearts are with tens of thousands more whose lives were ended or forever altered by everyday gun violence. It doesn't make the headlines, but we remember them, too. They are no less tragic and no less painful for the parents who lost children, and brothers and sisters, sons and daughters who lost mothers and fathers.

Whether it is a mass shooting or an individual shooting, people who shouldn't have guns are killing our fellow American citizens, and Congress just sits on its hands—the Senate does, anyway—and does nothing.

Let me mention a few stories of New Yorkers whose lives were cut short by gun violence just this year. The list goes on and on, I assure you.

Norzell Aldridge, of Cheektowaga in western New York, was a youth football coach. He was shot in the chest and killed a few weeks ago while trying to break up a fight at a park in Buffalo's East Side. Coach Aldridge's team had just finished playing the first game of their season.

Rhyan Williams-Cannon, a 21-year-old from Syracuse, was shot and killed in March as he was leaving the corner store. He was the youngest of seven siblings. He had just earned his GED in October. Rhyan's family said he was like a father to his nephew, sneaking candies to him behind his mother's back.

Shakeel Khan, of Johnson City, was murdered by a mass gunman in April while closing up his restaurant. Shakeel was the sole provider for his wife and his three children, aged 14, 12, and 8.

May God rest their souls.

I can stand here for hours and tell 100 more stories, each one as heartbreaking as the next. Each one is about senseless violence that might not have occurred if we had adequate laws on the books, all the people around them—their families, their friends, their communities—devastated by the recklessness, senselessness of this gun violence.

It is our solemn duty to the victims of those terrible tragedies who can't speak for themselves, but their memories call down to us for justice, to cure this terrible plague of gun violence that claims tens of thousands of lives every single day of every single year.

I have been fighting this fight for such a long time. Back in 1993, I was in my sixth term representing Brooklyn and Queens in the House of Representatives. I knew the terrible toll of gun violence firsthand because the streets of my community were testimony to it. East New York and Cypress Hills were known as the Killing Grounds back then because someone was murdered an average of once every 63 hours, so I was more than eager to help write, introduce, and pass the legislation establishing our background check system that later became known as the Brady Bill.

As we take stock of the legacy of that bill 25 years later, there is no question that it saved countless lives. There are literally thousands and thousands of people walking the streets of their communities who are alive today and would have been dead had the Brady Law not passed. We don't know who they are. They don't know who they are. But we know they are alive, and we are thankful for it.

Ever since the National Instant Criminal Background Check System went online in 1998, there have been more than 1.5 million denials to disqualified buyers. The ability to keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons has helped lead to a steep drop in murder rates experienced by communities across the country.

Take my hometown of New York City. In the early 1990s, before the Brady Bill was enacted, an average of 2,500 people were murdered every year in the five boroughs. Last year, that number was just 289.

But that doesn't mean our work is done—far from it. What seemed like a minor compromise in 1993—allowing the sale of firearms without background checks at gun shows—has become a massive loophole. At the time when I wrote the Brady Bill, gun shows were a place for collectors to sell antiques, but gun shows have grown exponentially in popularity because people who don't want background checks know they can get guns there and people who want to sell guns to people who don't go through background checks sell their guns there. And even of greater dimension, the internet exploded to facilitate private sales between strangers, no questions asked.

While some cities like New York have thankfully seen an overall decrease in gun deaths, there are still too

many pockets in cities across the country where this epidemic persists. At the same time, the frequency and lethality of mass shootings have rapidly increased.

The internet allows for copycats. People up to no good see someone else has killed many people and think that maybe they should do the same. We have seen the frequency of these awful mass shootings continue on and on.

We finally have an opportunity to close that loophole and keep guns from falling into the wrong hands in the first place. We have the opportunity to simply update the Brady Law—not change it, not expand it, just plug the holes that were punctured in it as time moved forward. No gun will be taken away from someone who is a law-abiding citizen by this law. No, only people who shouldn't have guns will not get them. And who could disagree with that? Certainly not the American people who are overwhelmingly on our side.

We Senate Democrats are here tonight because the House of Representatives has finally passed legislation closing the private sale loophole, marking the first time that either Chamber of Congress has passed an overhaul of a background check system since the Brady law more than 25 years ago.

What we are asking for is very simple and shouldn't cause us to come here at night. It should be an obvious thing to do: a simple up-or-down vote on legislation—an up-or-down vote on H.R. 8.

Let me say it again. Leader MCCONNELL, put H.R. 8 up for a vote on the floor of the Senate as soon as possible. Let us do what we were sent here to do by our constituents—what our constituents demand we do, which is fix the most pressing problems facing our Nation. If we fail to do so, it is plain and simple and terrible: More innocent people will die.

Before I yield the floor, I want to thank the survivors and families of victims who have done so much to remind the American people of just what is at stake when it comes to gun violence. I keep on a desk in my office pictures of the children who were murdered in Sandy Hook given to me by their ailing and grieving parents. And those parents and the thousands and thousands of others like them—survivors who amazingly choose to light a candle to prevent greater darkness despite the darkness that had overcome their lives and that has surrounded their lives, these are beautiful people, saint-like people—and we thank them.

A year and a half ago, we watched in horror as tragedy struck the Parkland community in Florida. Once again, the safety and sanctuary of a school was torn apart by the unthinkable, but this time felt different. Almost immediately, the students started speaking out, turning their immeasurable pain into courageous advocacy. Just 2 weeks later, I welcomed these Parkland teens into my office. My God, what courage, what fortitude, what inner strength. Even in the darkest of nights, some choose not to curse the darkness but to light a candle.

A few weeks later, I joined millions of New Yorkers who were inspired to march for change by these Parkland teens. Millions more Americans across the country did the same. And now, a little more than a year later, this Senate has the opportunity to vote on H.R. 8, universal background checks, among several other pieces of legislation passed by the House that would save lives from gun violence.

Times have changed. People forget that the Brady Bill was first introduced in 1987, 6 years after Jim Brady and President Reagan were wounded and more than 6 years before it was enacted into law. Now, we are moving from tragedy to action in a year. The movement that Jim and Sarah Brady started in the 1980s has reached a new era. The American people are no longer willing to wait months or years for change. Long gone are the days that Senate Republicans can just bury their heads in the sand and ignore that more than 30,000 Americans are killed by a gun every year. Politicians offering their thoughts and prayers just doesn't cut it anymore. It is put up or shut up.

Leader MCCONNELL, Senate Republicans, what will you do?

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. STEWART

• Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the career of Robert L. Stewart, a retired U.S. Army brigadier general and former NASA astronaut, from Huntsville, AL. Robert Stewart is an acknowledged leader in the aerospace industry, with over 40 years of hard work and dedication throughout his career, including selfless service in the military. He has worked for decades to improve the quality of life in his community and across the State of Alabama.

Mr. Robert Stewart entered Active Duty with the U.S. Army in 1964. He spent time at Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL, as well as Fort Rucker in Dale County, AL. Mr. Stewart has military and civilian experience, flying over 40 types of airplanes and helicopters, including over 1,200 hours of jet time, 1,015 combat flight hours, and over 6,000 logged hours total flight time.

Mr. Stewart became an astronaut in August of 1979. He has logged 289 hours in space, including approximately 12 hours of extravehicular activities operations. While training for his scheduled third flight at NASA, Stewart was selected by the Army for promotion to brigadier general. He retired from the Army in 1992. Stewart has received multiple recognitions for his distinguished service and work.

At home in north Alabama, Robert is married to Mary Jane. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. He received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1964 and a master of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1972.

I am proud to take this time to recognize Robert for his significant career. His achievements and dedication to advancing the industry have not gone unnoticed. I join Robert Stewart's friends, family, and colleagues in celebrating his career, and I thank him for his commitment to Alabama.•

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 8:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1200. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED ON JULY 24, 2019

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3196. An Act to designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the ''Vera C. Rubin Observatory''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2594. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Milk Donation Reimbursement Program'' ((RIN0581–AD87) (Docket No. AMS–DA–19–0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2595. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cuban Assets Control Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2596. A communication from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Board's fiscal year 2017 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2597. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2019 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2598. A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–2599. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''VA Acquisition Regulation: Environment, Energy and Water Efficiency, Renewable Energy Technologies, Occupational Safety and Drug-Free Workplace, Protection of Privacy and Freedom of Information, Other Socioeconomic Programs, and Contract Modifications'' (RIN2900–AQ24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2019; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2600. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''VA Acquisition Regulation: Contracting by Negotiation; Service Contracting'' (RIN2900–AQ20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2019; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2601. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Alaska Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Research'' (RIN0648–BG64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2602. A communication from the Chief of Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hours of Service of Drivers - Restart Provisions'' (RIN2126–AC30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2603. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3865'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2604. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3866'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2605. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3867'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2606. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3868'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2607. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace; New Iberia, LA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0344)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2608. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ashland, KY'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0450)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2609. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class D and E Airspace; Wichita, KS'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0890)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2610. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lander, WY'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0390)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2611. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments Amendments No. 548'' ((RIN2120–AA63) (Docket No. 31273)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2612. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0403)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2613. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0320)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2614. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0672)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2615. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0641)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2616. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0656)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2617. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0327)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2618. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0023)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2619. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0268)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2620. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2018–0057)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–134. A resolution adopted by the City Council of Lakewood, Ohio memorializing its support for the Solidarity Action Plan, passage of the Green New Deal Resolution, and the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM–135. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Narberth, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

POM–136. A petition from a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorializing a resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the United States Congress to facilitate and ensure implementation of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. BROWN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2481. A bill to facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases through coordinated domestic and international efforts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, Mr. KAINE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2482. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to carry out the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ''Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2483. A bill to counter efforts by foreign governments to pursue, harass, or otherwise persecute individuals for political and other unlawful motives overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 2484. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority for operation of a Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. UDALL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2485. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from using Government funds to pay for expenses at lodging establishments that are owned by or employ certain public officials or their relatives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2486. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to award grants for landlord-tenant mediation programs; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 2487. A bill to improve the effectiveness and efficiency and reduce the cost of the supply chain and inventory management of the Department of Defense by consolidating unnecessary and unneeded storage centers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. 2488. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules that prohibit officers and directors of certain companies from trading securities in anticipation of a current report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 2489. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2490. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain changes made by Public Law 115–97 to the child tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2491. A bill to terminate certain rules issued by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce relating to endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2492. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. REED):

S. 2493. A bill to establish the Malign Foreign Influence Response Center in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 313. A resolution designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2019, as ''Gold Star Families Remembrance Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 314. A resolution honoring the centennial of the Aerospace Industries Association; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JONES:

S. Res. 315. A resolution memorializing the discovery of the Clotilda; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 191

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 279

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 279, a bill to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program.

S. 315

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to authorize cyber hunt and incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor 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. ENZI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, supra.

S. 433

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 433, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the ''Six Triple Eight''.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 655, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 668

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 668, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as ''Merrill's Marauders'', in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

S. 785

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, a bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 789

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 789, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless and foster care youth.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 959

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 959, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.

S. 966

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 966, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize the physician self-referral prohibitions to promote care coordination in the merit-based incentive payment system and to facilitate physician practice participation in alternative payment models under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1168

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1168, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 1222

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1222, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide hospital care and medical services to veterans in the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, and to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of establishing regional offices, suboffices, contact units, or other subordinate offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Freely Associated States to provide such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 1263

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

S. 1307

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve nutrition in tribal areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1427

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1427, a bill to amend the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to improve the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1462, a bill to prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in the commission, from obtaining a firearm.

S. 1476

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's disease.

S. 1676

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1676, a bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1757, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1791

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1791, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and

queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1822, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 1840

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to establish certain requirements for the small refineries exemption of the renewable fuels provisions under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1863

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1863, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of the noted American philanthropist and business executive Julius Rosenwald, with a special focus on the Rosenwald Schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1970

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to secure the rights of public employees to organize, act concertedly, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 2001

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2001, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 2024

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2024, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the American History for Freedom grant program.

S. 2061

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2061, a bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the HUD–VASH program, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit annual reports to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2203

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2203, a bill to extend the transfer of Electronic Travel Authorization System fees from the Travel Promotion Fund to the Corporation for Travel Promotion (Brand USA) through fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes.

S. 2206

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2206, a bill to express the sense of Congress regarding restoration and maintenance of the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Negro Leagues baseball.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2417, a bill to provide for payment of proceeds from savings bonds to a State with title to such bonds pursuant to the judgment of a court.

S. 2462

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2462, a bill to help reduce household energy burdens by expanding access to solar energy for low-income households.

S. 2463

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2463, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for regulation and taxation of electronic cigarettes and alternative nicotine products.

S.J. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution to prohibit the unauthorized use of United States Armed Forces in hostilities with respect to Venezuela.

S. RES. 205

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 205, a resolution expressing the gratitude of the Senate for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) 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.

S. RES. 274

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 274, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and other rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices, and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 303

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 303, a resolution calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to dismantle its kwan-li-so political prison labor camp system, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28, 2019, AS ''GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK''

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.:

S. RES. 313

Whereas the last Sunday in September—

(1) is designated as ''Gold Star Mother's Day'' under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(2) was first designated as ''Gold Star Mother's Day'' under the Joint Resolution entitled ''Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as 'Gold Star Mother's Day', and for other purposes'', approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895);

Whereas there is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States;

Whereas a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 22 through September 28, 2019, as ''Gold Star Families Remembrance Week'';

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 314—HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 314

Whereas 100 years ago, in 1919, the Aerospace Industries Association was incorporated as the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America (ACCA) in the State of New York, later adopting its current name in 1959;

Whereas, for more than 100 years, the aerospace industry has moved, connected, secured, and inspired the modern world with countless innovations and technologies that play a role in almost every aspect of daily life;

Whereas the centennial of the Aerospace Industries Association celebrates the world-changing impact aerospace technologies have had and the role of aerospace technologies in strengthening the economy and national security of the United States;

Whereas the aerospace industry supports the National Defense Strategy of the United States by providing the Armed Forces the most technologically advanced and effective platforms and systems in the world;

Whereas the aerospace industry is a leading employer of veterans and retirees of the Armed Forces and recognizes the incredible contribution those veterans and retirees have made to the United States through their service;

Whereas the aerospace industry has contributed to the advancement of humankind as a key facilitator and collaborator in space, from the Apollo 11 mission to the future mission of the United States to Mars;

Whereas innovations in aerospace technologies continue to spur economic growth, as the aerospace industry maintains a presence in all 50 States and sustains approximately 2,500,000 jobs in the United States; and

Whereas the aerospace industry strives to inspire young people in the United States, including women and underrepresented communities, to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and pursue science-related careers that lead to future innovations and major scientific breakthroughs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges 2019 as the centennial for the Aerospace Industries Association;

(2) recognizes the need to promote the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and encourages young people in the United States to pursue careers in such fields; and

(3) commends the aerospace industry for continuing to innovate and develop technologies that will shape the United States for the next 100 years.

SENATE RESOLUTION 315—MEMORIALIZING THE DISCOVERY OF THE CLOTILDA

Mr. JONES submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 315

Whereas, from 1525 to 1866, the transatlantic slave trade resulted in more than 12,000,000 individuals being taken from their homes in Africa and made to endure the horrors of the Middle Passage to the Americas, where those individuals were forced into enslavement;

Whereas, on March 2, 1807, Congress enacted legislation banning the importation of enslaved people, which went into effect on January 1, 1808;

Whereas, in contravention of that ban, the last enslaved Africans forced to endure the voyage to the United States came aboard the *Clotilda*, which—

(1) left from Whydah, modern-day Benin, in May of 1860;

(2) arrived in Port of Pines in Grand Bay, Mississippi, on July 9, 1860; and

(3) was ultimately brought to Mobile Bay, Alabama, on July 14, 1860, carrying 110 individuals, including men, women, and children;

Whereas, shortly after arrival in Mobile Bay, Alabama, the Captain of the *Clotilda* scuttled and burned the ship to the waterline in order to conceal the evidence of his crime;

Whereas, following the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of enslaved Africans, some of the captives brought to the United States aboard the *Clotilda* settled in the area now known as Africatown, Alabama;

Whereas, on May 22, 2019, the Alabama Historical Commission and a team of scientists confirmed that a wreckage found in the Twelve Mile Island section of the Mobile River was the *Clotilda*;

Whereas, in the 160 years since the *Clotilda* was brought to Mobile Bay, the residents of Africatown, Alabama, have played a critical role in preserving the unique and important heritage and traditions of their community;

Whereas the Africatown Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 4, 2012, and is home to a number of important historic sites, including—

(1) the Mobile County Training School;

(2) the Old Landmark Baptist Church, now known as the Union Baptist Church; and

(3) the Africatown Cemetery, where many of the individuals who survived the forced migration to the United States in 1860 are buried: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the recent confirmation of the wreckage of the *Clotilda*, the last slave ship to arrive in the United States, constitutes a monumental discovery of local, national, and international importance and educational value;

(2) discovery of the *Clotilda* may serve as an inflection point for meaningful conversation about both past and present injustices;

(3) the residents of Africatown, Alabama, embody a spirit of resilience and a determination to build a better community for their descendants; and

(4) all efforts should be made—

(A) to preserve and protect the *Clotilda* and associated historic sites in Africatown, Alabama; and

(B) to use the discovery of the *Clotilda* to provide education to local, national, and international audiences about—

(i) the violent history of the transatlantic slave trade;

(ii) the stories of the last enslaved Africans to arrive in the United States; and

(iii) the rich and unique history of the community built by the descendants of those individuals.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 939. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1044, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 939. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1044, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country

numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. NUMERICAL LIMITATION TO ANY SINGLE FOREIGN STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) PER COUNTRY LEVELS FOR FAMILY-SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS.—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the total number of immigrant visas made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area under section 203(a) in any fiscal year may not exceed 15 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent (in the case of a dependent area) of the total number of such visas made available under such section in that fiscal year.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 202 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''both subsections (a) and (b) of section 203'' and inserting ''section 203(a)''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(2) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

''(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR COUNTRIES AT CEILING.—If the total number of immigrant visas made available under section 203(a) to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area will exceed the numerical limitation specified in subsection (a)(2) in any fiscal year, immigrant visas shall be allotted to such natives under section 203(a) (to the extent practicable and otherwise consistent with this section and section 203) in a manner so that, except as provided in subsection (a)(4), the proportion of the visas made available under each of paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 203(a) is equal to the ratio of the total visas made available under the respective paragraph to the total visas made available under section 203(a).''.

(c) COUNTRY-SPECIFIC OFFSET.—Section 2 of the Chinese Student Protection Act of 1992 (8 U.S.C. 1255 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''(as defined in subsection (e))'';

(2) by striking subsection (d); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if enacted on September 30, 2019, and shall apply to fiscal year 2020 and each subsequent fiscal year.

(e) TRANSITION RULES FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (5), and notwithstanding title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.), the following rules shall apply:

(A) For fiscal year 2020, 15 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining immigrant visas under such paragraphs.

(B) For fiscal year 2021, 10 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of such paragraphs shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining immigrant visas under such paragraphs.

(C) For fiscal year 2022, 10 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of such paragraphs shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining immigrant visas under such paragraphs.

(2) PER-COUNTRY LEVELS.—

(A) RESERVED VISAS.—The number of visas reserved under each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1) made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area in the appropriate fiscal year may not exceed 25 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent (in the case of a dependent area) of the total number of such visas.

(B) UNRESERVED VISAS.—Not more than 85 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) and not reserved under paragraph (1), for each of the fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022, may be allotted to immigrants who are natives of any single foreign state.

(3) SPECIAL RULE TO PREVENT UNUSED VISAS.—If, with respect to fiscal year 2020, 2021, or 2022, the application of paragraphs (1) and (2) would prevent the total number of immigrant visas made available under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) from being issued, such visas may be issued during the remainder of such fiscal year without regard to paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) TRANSITION RULE FOR CURRENTLY APPROVED BENEFICIARIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 202 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by this Act, immigrant visas under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allocated such that no alien described in subparagraph (B) receives a visa later than the alien otherwise would have received said visa had this Act not been enacted.

(B) ALIEN DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in this subparagraph if the alien is the beneficiary of a petition for an immigrant visa under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) that was approved prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) RULES FOR CHARGEABILITY.—Section 202(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(b)) shall apply in determining the foreign state to which an alien is chargeable for purposes of this subsection.

(6) SHORTAGE OCCUPATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2020 through 2028, not fewer than 5,000 of the immigrant visas made available under paragraph (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are—

(i) described in section 656.5(a) of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation); and

(ii) seeking admission to the United States to work in an occupation described in that section.

(B) FISCAL YEARS 2020, 2021, AND 2022.—The visas allotted under this paragraph for fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022 shall be allotted in addition to the visas allotted for such fiscal years under paragraph (1).

SEC. 3. POSTING AVAILABLE POSITIONS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WEBSITE.—Section 212(n)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(6)) is amended to read as follows:

''(6) For purposes of complying with paragraph (1)(C)—

''(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019, the Secretary of Labor shall establish a searchable internet website for posting positions in accordance with paragraph (1)(C) that is available to the public without charge, except that the Secretary may delay the launch of such website for a single period identified by the Secretary by notice in the Federal Register that shall not exceed 30 days.

''(B) The Secretary may work with private companies or nonprofit organizations to develop and operate the Internet website described in subparagraph (A).

''(C) The Secretary shall promulgate rules, after notice and a period for comment, to carry out this paragraph.''.

(b) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall submit to Congress, and publish in the Federal Register and in other appropriate media, a notice of the date on which the Internet website required under section 212(n)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as established by subsection (a), will be operational.

(c) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any application filed on or after the date that is 90 days after the date described in subsection (b).

(d) INTERNET POSTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 212(n)(1)(C) of such Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (ii) as subclause (II);

(2) by striking ''(i) has provided'' and inserting the following:

''(ii)(I) has provided''; and

(3) by inserting before clause (ii), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following:

''(i) except in the case of an employer filing a petition on behalf of an H–1B nonimmigrant who has already been counted against the numerical limitations and is not eligible for a full 6-year period, as described in section 214(g)(7), or on behalf of an H–1B nonimmigrant authorized to accept employment under section 214(n), has posted on the internet website described in paragraph (6), for at least 30 calendar days, a description of each position for which a nonimmigrant is sought, that includes—

''(I) the occupational classification, and if different the employer's job title for the position, in which the nonimmigrant(s) will be employed;

''(II) the education, training, or experience qualifications for the position;

''(III) the salary or wage range and employee benefits offered;

''(IV) the location(s) at which the nonimmigrant(s) will be employed; and

''(V) the process for applying for a position; and''.

SEC. 4. H–1B EMPLOYER APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) WAGE DETERMINATION INFORMATION.—Section 212(n)(1)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(D)) is amended by inserting ''the prevailing wage determination methodology used under subparagraph (A)(i)(II),'' after ''shall contain''.

(b) NEW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)) is amended by inserting after subparagraph (G)(ii) the following:

''(H)(i) The employer, or a person or entity acting on the employer's behalf, has not advertised any available position specified in the application in an advertisement that states or indicates that—

''(I) such position is only available to an individual who is or will be an H–1B nonimmigrant; or

''(II) an individual who is or will be an H–1B nonimmigrant shall receive priority or a preference in the hiring process for such position.

''(ii) The employer has not primarily recruited individuals who are or who will be H–1B nonimmigrants to fill such position.

''(I) If the employer, in a previous period specified by the Secretary, employed one or more H–1B nonimmigrants, the employer shall submit to the Secretary the Internal Revenue Service Form W–2 Wage and Tax Statements filed by the employer with respect to the H–1B nonimmigrants for such period.''.

(c) LABOR CONDITION APPLICATION FEE.—Section 212(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6)(A) The Secretary of Labor shall promulgate a regulation that requires applicants under this subsection to pay an administrative fee to cover the average paperwork processing costs and other administrative costs.

''(B)(i) Fees collected under this paragraph shall be deposited as offsetting receipts within the general fund of the Treasury in a separate account, which shall be known as the 'H–1B Administration, Oversight, Investigation, and Enforcement Account' and shall remain available until expended.

''(ii) The Secretary of the Treasury shall refund amounts in such account to the Secretary of Labor for salaries and related expenses associated with the administration, oversight, investigation, and enforcement of the H–1B nonimmigrant visa program.''.

(d) ELIMINATION OF B–1 IN LIEU OF H–1.—Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(12)(A) Unless otherwise authorized by law, an alien normally classifiable under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) who seeks admission to the United States to provide services in a specialty occupation described in paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (i) may not be issued a visa or admitted under section 101(a)(15)(B) for such purpose.

''(B) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to authorize the admission of an alien under section 101(a)(15)(B) who is coming to the United States for the purpose of performing skilled or unskilled labor if such admission is not otherwise authorized by law.''.

SEC. 5. INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST H–1B EMPLOYERS.

(a) INVESTIGATION, WORKING CONDITIONS, AND PENALTIES.—Section 212(n)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(C)) is amended by striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:

''(iv)(I) An employer that has filed an application under this subsection violates this clause by taking, failing to take, or threatening to take or fail to take a personnel action, or intimidating, threatening, restraining, coercing, blacklisting, discharging, or discriminating in any other manner against an employee because the employee—

''(aa) disclosed information that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection; or

''(bb) cooperated or sought to cooperate with the requirements under this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection.

''(II) An employer that violates this clause shall be liable to the employee harmed by such violation for lost wages and benefits.

''(III) In this clause, the term 'employee' includes—

''(aa) a current employee;

''(bb) a former employee; and

''(cc) an applicant for employment.''.

(b) INFORMATION SHARING.—Section 212(n)(2)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(H)) is amended to read as follows:

''(H)(i) The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall provide the Secretary of Labor with any information contained in the materials submitted by employers of H–1B nonimmigrants as part of the petition adjudication process that indicates that the employer is not complying with visa program requirements for H–1B nonimmigrants.

''(ii) The Secretary may initiate and conduct an investigation and hearing under this paragraph after receiving information of noncompliance under this subparagraph.''.

SEC. 6. LABOR CONDITION APPLICATIONS.

(a) APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)) is amended, in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (I), as added by section 4(b)—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by inserting '', and through the internet website of the Department of Labor, without charge.'' after ''Washington, D.C.'';

(2) in the fifth sentence, by striking ''only for completeness'' and inserting ''for completeness, clear indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact,'';

(3) in the sixth sentence, by striking ''or obviously inaccurate'' and inserting '', presents clear indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact, or is obviously inaccurate''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following: ''If the Secretary's review of an application identifies clear indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact, the Secretary may conduct an investigation and hearing in accordance with paragraph (2).''.

(b) ENSURING PREVAILING WAGES ARE FOR AREA OF EMPLOYMENT AND ACTUAL WAGES ARE FOR SIMILARLY EMPLOYED.—Section 212(n)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), in the undesignated matter following subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting '', and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) will ensure that—

''(I) the actual wages or range identified in clause (i) relate solely to employees having substantially the same duties and responsibilities as the H–1B nonimmigrant in the geographical area of intended employment, considering experience, qualifications, education, job responsibility and function, specialized knowledge, and other legitimate business factors, except in a geographical area there are no such employees, and

''(II) the prevailing wages identified in clause (ii) reflect the best available information for the geographical area within normal commuting distance of the actual address of employment at which the H–1B nonimmigrant is or will be employed.''.

(c) PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION.—Section 212(n)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(2)(A) Subject'' and inserting ''(2)(A)(i) Subject'';

(2) by striking the fourth sentence; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii)(I) Upon receipt of a complaint under clause (i), the Secretary may initiate an investigation to determine whether such a failure or misrepresentation has occurred.

''(II) The Secretary may conduct—

''(aa) surveys of the degree to which employers comply with the requirements under this subsection; and

''(bb) subject to subclause (IV), annual compliance audits of any employer that employs H–1B nonimmigrants during the applicable calendar year.

''(III) Subject to subclause (IV), the Secretary shall—

''(aa) conduct annual compliance audits of each employer that employs more than 100 full-time equivalent employees who are employed in the United States if more than 15 percent of such full-time employees are H–1B nonimmigrants; and

''(bb) make available to the public an executive summary or report describing the general findings of the audits conducted under this subclause.

''(IV) In the case of an employer subject to an annual compliance audit in which there was no finding of a willful failure to meet a condition under subparagraph (C)(ii), no further annual compliance audit shall be conducted with respect to such employer for a period of not less than 4 years, absent evidence of misrepresentation or fraud.''.

(d) PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.—Section 212(n)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(C)) is amended –

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''a condition of paragraph (1)(B), (1)(E), or (1)(F)'' and inserting ''a condition of paragraph (1)(B), (1)(E), (1)(F), (1)(H), or 1(I)''; and

(B) in subclause (I), by striking ''$1,000'' and inserting ''$3,000'';

(2) in clause (ii)(I), by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$15,000'';

(3) in clause (iii)(I), by striking ''$35,000'' and inserting ''$100,000''; and

(4) in clause (vi)(III), by striking ''$1,000'' and inserting ''$3,000''.

(e) INITIATION OF INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 212(n)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''In the case of an investigation'' in the second sentence and all that follows through the period at the end of the clause;

(2) in clause (ii), in the first sentence, by striking ''and whose identity'' and all that follows through ''failure or failures.'' and inserting ''the Secretary of Labor may conduct an investigation into the employer's compliance with the requirements under this subsection.'';

(3) in clause (iii), by striking the second sentence;

(4) by striking clauses (iv) and (v);

(5) by redesignating clauses (vi), (vii), and (viii) as clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), respectively;

(6) in clause (iv), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking''clause (viii)'' and inserting ''clause (vi)''; and

(B) by striking ''meet a condition described in clause (ii)'' and inserting ''comply with the requirements under this subsection'';

(7) by amending clause (v), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(v)(I) The Secretary of Labor shall provide notice to an employer of the intent to conduct an investigation under clause (i) or (ii).

''(II) The notice shall be provided in such a manner, and shall contain sufficient detail, to permit the employer to respond to the allegations before an investigation is commenced.

''(III) The Secretary is not required to comply with this clause if the Secretary determines that such compliance would interfere with an effort by the Secretary to investigate or secure compliance by the employer with the requirements of this subsection.

''(IV) A determination by the Secretary under this clause shall not be subject to judicial review.'';

(8) in clause (vi), as so redesignated, by striking ''An investigation'' in the first sentence and all that follows through ''the determination.'' in the second sentence and inserting ''If the Secretary of Labor, after an investigation under clause (i) or (ii), determines that a reasonable basis exists to make

a finding that the employer has failed to comply with the requirements under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide interested parties with notice of such determination and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 556 of title 5, United States Code, not later than 60 days after the date of such determination.''; and

(9) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) If the Secretary of Labor, after a hearing, finds that the employer has violated a requirement under this subsection, the Secretary may impose a penalty pursuant to subparagraph (C).''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 2.30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Tanya Otsuka, a fellow for the minority staff on the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, be granted floor permission until Tuesday, December 31, and also to recognize Drew Martineau, Abigail Duggan, and Shomari Figures.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:17 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 17, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KENNETH A. HOWERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN.

JOHN RAKOLTA, JR., OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH 21, 2019 AS RESPONSIBLE GAMING EDUCATION WEEK

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize this week as Responsible Gaming Education Week.

In 1998, the American Gaming Association established Responsible Gaming Education Week to promote responsible gaming nationwide and to educate employees and customers on the subject.

I am proud to represent Las Vegas, the gold standard when it comes to gaming and gaming regulation. Gaming generates jobs for 1.8 million Americans, providing $74 billion in wages, benefits, and tips. The U.S. casino industry at large generates more than $40 billion in federal, state, and local taxes, supporting a range of needed services like hospitals, schools, transportation routes, and public safety.

The gaming industry goes to great lengths to make sure employees are trained in best practices for recognizing and dealing with problem gaming and patrons are aware of options for help if they need it. The industry contributes hundreds of millions of dollars each year toward research and treatment of problem gambling as well as awareness and other training programs. In short, responsible gaming has become an integral part of their daily operations.

I am proud to support the goals and ideals of Responsible Gaming Education Week which brings together the gaming industry, advocacy groups, regulators, and other key stakeholders to promote transparency and gaming literacy. I commend the industry for its work on the issue and the education provided to promote responsible play and awareness of gaming disorders.

I also applaud the employees of the gaming industry for the work they do every day educating patrons about the issue. Las Vegas is a better community and tourism destination for it.

RECOGNIZING JOHN MORFORD OF LIVINGSTON

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Morford of Livingston for his many years of dedicated service to Montana and the Livingston community through his participation and leadership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

John has served selflessly through the local and state Elks Lodges, including as president of both lodges. His project management skills have helped turn many Elks programs into well-oiled machines that reach hundreds of people throughout our communities.

For over a decade, John has been the director of the annual Hoop Shoot program in which thousands of Montana students compete against students nationwide to be one of the six national champions. This competition is aimed at helping children develop and reinforce perseverance.

He also assists with the Elks' food basket distribution project, which coordinates community efforts to provide families in need with a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Last November they delivered food baskets to over 300 families in Livingston and surrounding communities.

John also created a scholarship for Montana students interested in studying music. Stemming from his love of music, he created a unique music scholarship program through the Elks almost 10 years ago, securing the necessary funding and creating a panel of musically-versed Elks members. High school seniors throughout Montana, who plan to major or minor in music performance or education, send their musical pieces to the panel for a chance to win a scholarship.

Madam Speaker, for his dedication to charitable giving in the community and the state of Montana, I recognize John Morford of Livingston for his spirit of Montana.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE'S LAW OFFICE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The People's Law Office. Founded in August of 1969 in Chicago, the PLO has championed many important struggles against official racism, police violence, and mass incarceration over the past 50 years.

The first important case taken on by the PLO was the Fred Hampton Black Panther case. My friends and fellow students of the struggle, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, were killed by 14 raiding Chicago police officers under the command of Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan on the early morning of December 4, 1969. After 13 years of hard-fought court battles in the wake of Fred's death, the PLO and their clients in the Illinois Black Panther Party proved that Fred was murdered in his bed as part of the FBI's COINTELPRO initiative. As the founder of the Illinois Black Panther Party, I was privileged to have a front-row seat to the commitment, diligence, and resilience of the PLO's lawyers. Together, we won a victory for justice and accountability, and made sure that Fred's death was not in vain.

The PLO was also an early pioneer in fighting against the inhumanity of America's prisons both in Illinois and nationally. Its lawyers were instrumental in fighting for justice for the men who were murdered, tortured, and unjustly prosecuted in the 1971 Attica prison rebellion. They also fought for years for justice in the Marion Federal Penitentiary and several Illinois prisons, including Pontiac, Stateville and Dwight. Together with other Chicago lawyers and activists, the PLO obtained the acquittal of 16 Pontiac prisoners wrongfully prosecuted for capital murder after the Pontiac Prison rebellion in 1978.

In my district, as well as the greater city of Chicago, PLO has fought for more than 30 years to expose and bring to justice a ring of racist police torturers, led by police commander Jon Burge, who tortured more than 125 suspects of color from 1972 to 1991. Their work in uncovering the scope and breadth of this officially sanctioned scandal has been instrumental in freeing numerous men who were wrongfully convicted as a result of torture, winning money settlements for many of those men, helping to end the death penalty in Illinois, in obtaining the firing and conviction of Burge, and in obtaining from the City of Chicago a historic and wide ranging package of financial and non-financial reparations for many of the survivors of police torture.

PLO lawyers also fought for justice in Greensboro, North Carolina, in a case brought by the families of five anti-Ku Klux Klan demonstrators who were massacred by KKK and Nazi members in 1979.

The PLO continues to champion cases that advance the civil rights and civil liberties that uphold the very foundations of our government. The PLO has represented many generations of protestors, Puerto Rican independence and Palestinian activists, victims of police brutality, and other forms of official violence and abuse.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the PLO on fifty years of fighting for truth, justice, and accountability. I wish them another fifty years of success in protecting the civil rights of my fellow Chicagoans.

TRIBUTE TO THE ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF LOS ANGELES

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Assistance League of Los Angeles upon its centennial anniversary.

Beginning in the mid-1890s, Assistance League founder Anne Banning and a small group of prominent Los Angeles women initiated a tradition of benevolence and compassion by performing local relief work for those underserved by conventional charities. By 1906, the group's humanitarian efforts extended beyond Southern California to victims of the devastating San Francisco earthquake.

Joined by her close friend and co-founder Ada Edwards Laughlin in 1919, Mrs. Banning officially formed the Assistance League of Southern California as part of the first wave of American nonprofits that empowered ordinary citizens to serve their communities through long-term volunteerism. As the organization expanded in the coming decades, Mrs. Banning and Mrs. Laughlin founded the National Assistance League in 1935, which today supports over 120 individual branches with the Assistance League of Los Angeles as the founding chapter.

Over the last century, the Assistance League of Los Angeles has responded effectively and compassionately to national, state and local issues, staying true to Mrs. Banning's original vision, acting ''as a friend at any and all times to men, women and children in need of care, guidance and assistance, spiritually, materially and physically.'' The League began by providing food and clothing to families severely impacted by World War I and the Great Depression, before moving on to organize blood drives supporting the Red Cross and holiday gift exchanges for soldiers during World War II. Closer to home, the League formed auxiliaries that tackled a diverse array of issues and broadened the scope of the organization's assistance. Among their many achievements, these auxiliaries organized day nurseries and preschool programs, counseled families in need, provided clothing and supplies to underserved schoolchildren, and raised funds through theater performances, fashion shows, thrift stores, and other efforts.

Today, the Assistance League of Los Angeles continues its commitment to helping the Los Angeles community, with eight auxiliaries conducting six significant services. These services include The Preschool Learning Center, Foster Children's Resource Center, Theatre for Children, Hollywood Children's Club, and Operation School Bell support children and families, giving future generations resources they need to succeed and grow. Additionally, the Court Referred Volunteer Center enables adults and youth convicted of infractions, misdemeanors, or felonies to serve the community they have wronged as a more meaningful and beneficial alternative to fines and incarceration.

I am honored to recognize the Assistance League of Los Angeles for 100 years of outstanding service to the greater Los Angeles community. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Assistance League for its remarkable achievements.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS J. COLLINS OF COLLINS ENGINEERS, INC. ON THE COMPANY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Thomas J. Collins, founder of Collins Engineers, Inc., on his company's 40th anniversary. Tom has been a longtime constituent and resident of La Grange, Illinois.

Born and raised in Chicago, Mr. Collins is a Vietnam War veteran, a professional engineer, and a certified diver. He pioneered the use of engineers as diving inspectors for underwater bridge infrastructure that eventually became the basis of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) program mandate for underwater bridge inspections. Additionally, Mr. Collins developed and carried out several DOT training programs for infrastructure assessment and management, including teaching best practices to ensure public safety.

Mr. Collins played a significant role in Vietnam as part of the 39th Detachment, setting up operations at Cam Ranh Bay in the then-largest military quarry in the world, operated by the 864th Battalion. During this time, he joined the local Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Post and continued to advance his noteworthy military career. In February 1967, he became the quarry officer and supervised drilling, blasting, and crushing to produce aggregate. In July 1967, he was assigned as the Battalion Civil Engineer before leaving active duty to return home with an honorable discharge.

Mr. Collins' expertise led him to found Collins Engineers, Inc. in 1979, a civil and structural engineering firm with a concentration on infrastructure that supports a safe and efficient transportation system. Under Mr. Collins's leadership and with innovation as a guiding principle, Collins Engineers, Inc. pioneered the use of underwater inspections. Today, the company is using underwater imaging, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and partnerships with technology firms like Google for mobile work platforms and asset management.

Mr. Collins is a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a diplomate of the Academy of Coasts, Ocean, Port & Navigation Engineers, a member of the Standing Committee on Structure Maintenance of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), Chair of the Underwater Inspection and Maintenance Subcommittee of the TRB, and was elected a permanent member of the Ports & Harbors Committee of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute, among many other notable distinctions. He is a mentor to generations of engineers, including his five children, three of whom are currently in the business, and a devoted husband to Roxanne Horswell since 1966.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Collins and Collins Engineers, Inc. as they celebrate 40 years of hard work and innovation. I look forward to their continued success for many years in the future.

RECOGNIZING WHITING AMERICAN LEGION POST 80'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today to honor one of America's finest organizations, the American Legion, and to recognize one if its local posts, Whiting American Legion Post 80, on its 100th anniversary. Post 80 came to be shortly after the founding of the national organization. In honor of this momentous occasion, the members of Post 80 will be celebrating with dinner and entertainment on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at the legion hall in Whiting.

For the past one hundred years, Whiting Post 80 has been an extraordinary example of the ideals and mission of the American Legion. Overall, the American Legion boasts nearly 13,000 posts, and remarkably, consists of nearly two million members. In their communities, American Legion posts are a source of pride for their many contributions made to aid and honor veterans and to better their communities.

Throughout the years, Whiting Post 80 has taken heed of the American Legion's mission. They have been well known in the Whiting—Robertsdale area for their many activities aimed at honoring veterans, which have included an honor guard and drum and bugle corps, but also for their many programs that serve the youth and families in their community.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the elected officers, committee members, and delegates for 2019–2020 who have dedicated their time and efforts to Whiting American Legion Post 80. They include Commander Harry Triplett, First Vice Commander William Montanez, Second Vice Commander Kevin Fuller, Adjutant and Finance Officer Bill Palmer, Chaplain Bob Downey, Sergeant-at-Arms Johnathan Hernandez, Judge Advocate Mike Wooden, Historian Dan Scott, Service Officer Brian Humenik, and Executive Finance Officer Harry Nee. The executive committee nominees include Bob Downey, Art Peschke, and Moe Davila, and the delegate nominees include Commander Harry Triplett, Mike Wooden, and Bill Palmer.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing American Legion Post 80 and its members on its 100th anniversary. I also ask that you join me in honoring its membership for their service to their community, its veterans, and their commitment to the ideals of the American Legion. Their efforts have played a major role in elevating the quality of life in their community.

HONORING LOUISE JEAN SIGNORE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize today Co-op City's oldest resident, Louise Jean Signore, who this year is turning a remarkable 107 years old.

Louise, or Jean as she is also known to her friends and family, was born on July 31, 1912 in Manhattan. One of five siblings born to Theodore and Marie, the family moved to the Bronx in 1926, where Louise's father worked as a custom tailor to the rich and famous. Louise's mother was very social, and would host open houses on Sundays, serving waffles.

Louise worked for the Mass Transit Authority for 34 years as an Administrative Assistant and retired in 1977. As a retiree, Louise loved to swim. She'd pack a lunch bag and head to Orchard Beach during the week days early in the morning. Louise did this, incredibly, into her 90's. On weekends, Louise and her sister would go dancing. In the 1940's they frequented the Essex Ballroom, Roseland Ballroom, the Savoy Manor and the ABC Club.

They also traveled extensively to Europe; twice by ship to Italy and also to places like Spain. She also enjoyed domestic trips, especially to Los Angeles. Louise felt like she educated herself through her travels.

Though she is now 107, Louise is not slowing down. She still loves to dance and exercise, has a great sense of humor, and is still as sharp as a whip. Louise younger sister Renee credits both of their long lives to their faith in God and their avoidance of prescription medication.

Madam Speaker, I lived in Co-op City and know what makes it so special. It's the people. People like Louise Signore, who have made an indelible impact on the community. I want to congratulate Louise in reaching this incredible milestone. Here's to many more years of joy and happiness.

CONGRATULATING KENNETH COOK

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Kenneth Cook, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Last October, Kenneth first came to Encompass Health with the diagnosis of Guillain Barre. He had very little movement in his lower extremities and little strength in his upper extremities. On his first day, he needed the help of two therapists to get out of bed.

Kenneth knew that he had a long road to recovery ahead of him, but he was determined to emerge victorious. He never missed a day of therapy and always showed up with a positive attitude and willingness to work.

In four short weeks, Kenneth was able to walk under his own power with a walker. He eventually regained his ability to walk without a walker and return to work.

It is thrilling to hear that Kenneth was able to accomplish this with hard work and determination. Congratulations once again to Kenneth on this recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELAL FARHAT'S APPOINTMENT TO THE WAYNE COUNTY THIRD CIRCUIT COURT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helal Farhat on his appointment to the Wayne County Third Circuit Bench.

Since receiving his Juris Doctor from Wayne State University Law School in 2002, Farhat has been an active member of the legal community. For the past 16 years, Farhat served as the principal attorney at Farhat & Associates, a firm he established that specializes in commercial and business litigation, criminal law, family law, and immigration, and formerly served as partner at Salamey & Farhat. In addition to his work as an attorney, Farhat served as a magistrate judge on the 19th District Court in Dearborn. He held this position from 2009 to 2012, and then again from 2016 until his appointment to the Wayne County Circuit Court by Governor Whitmer on March 28, 2019.

Helal Farhat has established himself as a pillar of the Dearborn community, earning his impeccable reputation amongst his peers, the legal community at large, and the judiciary through his accomplished legal background. Aside from serving southeast Michigan in a professional capacity, Farhat also dedicates a significant amount of time to charity work and involvement with advocacy organizations. Notably, Farhat is the President of the Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering Michigan families by supporting their social, health, educational, and economic well-being. Throughout all his work, Farhat displays an overwhelming commitment to protecting the fundamental rights of all Americans, and his efforts have received widespread acclaim, evidenced through his designation as a Super Lawyer and President of the Dearborn Bar Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Helal Farhat for his appointment to the Wayne County Circuit Court. His legal expertise, character, and public service experience will make him an excellent judge who will dutifully serve the people of Michigan.

HONORING GLADYS BARKER GRAUER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Gladys Barker Grauer, the "Mother of Newark Arts," after her passing on September 5, 2019.

Gladys Barker Grauer was a renowned artist, gallery owner, and arts educator for more than 70 years. She was born Gladys Frances Barker in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 15, 1923, to Maudie and Charles Barker. When her family moved to Chicago, Illinois, she discovered her love of art at Englewood High School and later studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1946, she met and married Solomon Grauer. Five years later, they moved to Newark's South Ward, a place where she would live her entire life.

Mrs. Grauer established herself as a true force in Newark's art scene in 1971 when she opened the city's first African-American-owned art gallery, the Aard Studio Gallery on Bergen Street. Her art focused on Newark's marginalized populations with themes that included poverty, homelessness, and urban conflict. Her art has been exhibited locally, nationally and internationally in locations as varied as the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C.; The Newark Museum and the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Her most recent show, called "Speaking Her Mind: Then and Now," was showcased at Gallery Aferro in Newark just last year. In addition, she has painted five murals around the city for current residents and visitors to enjoy.

More than an artist, she was a dedicated teacher of art. The Aard Studio Galley was a place where young artists, particularly young artists of color, could learn and showcase their artistic talents. They knew that the Aard Studio provided them a rare and critical place for mutual support and professional networking as well as a location for exhibitions and sales of their work. Also, she taught commercial art for the Essex County Vocational Schools from 1974 to 1989.

She was a founding member of Black Woman in Visual Perspective, New Jersey Chapter of the National Conference of Artists, and the Newark Arts Council. She even received the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for the Arts for her contributions to the local art scene and support for local artists.

Madam Speaker, I know my fellow members of the U.S. House of Representatives agree that Gladys Barker Grauer deserves to be recognized at the time of her passing for her tremendous contributions to the international artistic community and her dedication to the education and betterment of Newark's artists of color.

CONGRATULATING CAMERON YINGLING

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Cameron Yingling, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

This past summer, Cameron and his brother were diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia. This disease affects balance, coordination, mobility, and the heart. There is no treatment or cure, but that has not deterred the boys. Following their diagnosis, they started selling blue "Fight Ataxia" bracelets and donated all to research.

Since coming to Encompass Health, he and his brother have always showed up with a fighting spirit and a positive attitude each session as they participate in aqua and land therapy to maintain muscle strength and mobility.

It is thrilling to hear that Cameron was also able to help others in his program to push a little harder once they saw his work ethic.

Congratulations once again to Cameron on this recognition.

HONORING COMMUNITY LEADER FAY H. WILLIAMS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize Fay H. Williams, an attorney, civil rights activist and community advocate in my district. Fay is being celebrated by the Asante Children's Theatre as a living legend, receiving the 2019 Asante Legacy Honoree.

Fay has dedicated her life to the betterment of her fellow citizens through a commitment to fighting for the rights of women and minorities, as well as disenfranchised and mentally ill individuals. She has also championed diversity and inclusion in our community and around Central Indiana.

For the past half a century, Fay has served as a board member for several prominent nonprofit organizations including the American Red Cross Indiana Region Chapter, Children's Museum of Indianapolis and United Way of Central Indiana. At United Way, she co-launched the Minority Key Club, later renamed the Diversity Leadership Circle, a cornerstone organization with a commitment to diversity through talent acquisition in the community. Fay also went on to establish the Indianapolis Chapter of Coalition of 100 Black Women and served as a founding board-member of the Indianapolis Urban League and Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Fay H. Williams for her invaluable and ongoing contributions to our community, state and country.

HONORING ASSYRIAN MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of the Assyrian people. On the occasion of Assyrian Memorial Day, we pay our respects to and remember those Assyrians who have lost their lives to genocide and persecution.

The Assyrian people have faced systematic persecution from the early 20th century to the present day. From 1915 to 1918, 750,000 men, women, and children of Assyrian descent were killed under the Ottoman Empire, while still hundreds of thousands more became homeless and stateless refugees. In the Simele Massacre on August 7, 1933, 3,000 Assyrians were killed at the hands of the then-government of Iraq. In recent years, ISIS committed a brutal genocide against religious and ethnic minorities, including Assyrians, killing thousands of people.

We will ensure these tragedies are never forgotten. I would like to recognize New York State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh for his work in highlighting the valuable contributions that members of the Assyrian-American community have made in my state and across the country. We must recall the commitment of the United States to promoting freedom and human rights for all people regardless of their national, religious, or ethnic identity and remain steadfast in our conviction.

We must continue to speak out against injustice everywhere and contribute to a world in which all people can live without fear of genocide or persecution.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT LEE SMITH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Lee Smith. For decades, Robert pursued public service as a dedicated teacher, school administrator, and a member of the United States Air Force. We have lost a great leader, a tremendous educator, and a dear friend and advisor.

Robert dedicated his life to sharing knowledge. He sought out opportunities through which he could give back to his community, progressing first as a high school valedictorian and scholarship recipient to earning degrees from Florida A&M University and Columbia University Teachers School in education and school administration. As an exceptional Communications Specialist in the United States Air Force, education remained a focus as he additionally served as a part-time instructor and education services coordinator. Robert's service was rewarded with the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Outstanding Airman Award. He was Honorably Discharged as a Sergeant on June 10, 1956. Robert knew what it meant to serve his community and our nation. He always went above and beyond to improve the lives of those around him.

Robert's 36-year career in the Broward County School System enriched the lives of thousands of students, having served as a well-respected and cherished elementary school teacher and principle. His leadership expanded far beyond school walls, as he was president of Justice for All in Broward and the Golden Heights Homeowners' Association and he was the first African-American president of the Fort Lauderdale Optimist Club. He was also a leader in the First Baptist Church Piney Grove and his 63-year membership included serving as a Deacon and as Chairman of the Deacon Board. Undoubtedly, Robert's membership to the NAACP and position as Board Chairman for the L.A. Lee YMCA ensured his indelible mark on every facet of our community.

I extend my deepest condolences to Robert's wife, Betty; his daughter, Anitha Rhodette; his son-in-law, Darrell; his grandson, Kamyron; and his entire family during this extremely difficult time. His life and legacy will always live on and he will be dearly missed.

CONGRATULATING DICK SHAFFER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Dick Shaffer, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Dick's first injury was in 1991 when he fell off a ladder while he got stung by a hornet as he was cleaning his gutters. He shattered his hip as a result of this. Most recently he fell at his home, cutting his head.

Throughout the years he has showed up each time for his rehabilitation with the determination to succeed over his injury, working hard to return to his healthy self.

Despite the challenges he faced, Dick never let his previous injuries deter him from living his life. He still maintains his positive attitude. strength, and love for his family.

Congratulations once again to Dick on this recognition.

REMEMBERING WILBERT GREENFIELD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in praise of Dr. Wilbert Greenfield, the 10th President of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina as well as the 10th President of Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. Dr. Greenfield passed away last month at the age of 86. As President of the historically black university from 1973 to 1982, Dr. Greenfield strengthened Johnson C. Smith by gaining the financial support of several government and community agencies, by creating an Honors Program and by developing an Archival Center for preserving the university's heritage. He garnered funds to build new dormitories, which had not been done for years. The University's Board of Trustees named Wilbert Greenfield Hall in his honor in 1984. While at Johnson C. Smith, Dr. Greenfield became a founding member of NAFEO, the National Association for Equal Opportunity In Higher Education and remained a member until his death. The City of Charlotte benefitted by having a growing Johnson C. Smith University on its west side thanks to Dr. Greenfield's efforts.

After ten years of dedicated service at Johnson C. Smith, Dr. Greenfield accepted the position as President of Virginia State University, where he served from 1983 to 1988. During his presidency, the University experienced numerous academic strides. He instituted the expansion and renovation of the Hunter-McDaniel Science building as well as other academic buildings. Additionally, grant funds were secured for an agricultural research building. This vigorous initiative led to the revitalization of the Randolph Experimental Farm, which is located near the University's main campus. It is noted that one of Dr. Greenfield's proudest moments was bringing aquaculture (fish farming) to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Due to his legendary vision, VSU took the lead in Virginia as the pioneer in aquaculture. During his VSU tenure, Dr. Greenfield visited the White House under the Reagan and Bush Administrations to continue strategic initiatives to enhance higher education for minorities. In addition, Dr. Greenfield was named Educator of the Year in 1988 by the Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity, a worldwide organization with more than 150,000 members.

Dr. Greenfield was born on July 18, 1933 in Seven Springs, North Carolina, and earned degrees from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State College in Greensboro and was the fifth African American in this country to earn a PhD in Cardiac Physiology from the

University of Iowa-Iowa City. Dr. Greenfield began his academic career in 1967 as Professor, Chairman of the Department of Biology and Academic Dean at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi where he taught NFL legend Walter Payton, among others. I wish to express my condolences to Dr. Greenfield's friends, former students and family, and especially to his son George whose technical expertise keeps my Congressional offices running smoothly. Dr. Greenfield will long be remembered in those places where he made such a profound impact and legacy.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REVIS BROWN

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Revis Brown of Anna, Illinois, who passed away peacefully earlier this month. Revis, born on August 5, 1926, was a decorated World War II and Korean War veteran who served his country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Immediately after graduating high school, Revis enlisted to serve his country in the Pacific during World War II. While fighting in the Battle of Iwo Jima, Revis was blasted and wounded with shrapnel, but continued to fight on bravely. Though some of this shrapnel remained in his back for the rest of his life, Revis selflessly reenlisted to fight in the Korean War. After his service was finished, Revis worked for the U.S. Geological Survey. Revis Brown was a hero during wartime and an exemplary citizen during times of peace. He was the definition of a true American, and we wish his family and friends our prayers in their time of mourning.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Corporal Revis Brown for his service to our country and his contributions to Southern Illinois. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNITION OF REVEREND DEBBIE LEE BRYANT'S FAMILY CELEBRATING 379 YEARS IN HAMPTON

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Reverend Debbie Lee Bryant celebrating her family's 379th year in Hampton, Virginia.

Reverend Bryant's rich and diverse ancestry in Hampton Roads epitomizes the complex backgrounds so many fellow Americans share by telling the story of the Native Americans who lived on the land we now call home, the enslaved Africans who were brought here by force, and the plantation owners who profited from the properties.

I also wish to commend Reverend Bryant's diligent work as an historian documenting and researching the origins of the first Africans to land at Old Point Comfort. We must continue to remember the difficult past so we can move forward together as a community toward a better future for all.

I thank Reverend Bryant for sharing this milestone with me and all that she does in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 11 ELEFSON-ZEUSKE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor American Legion Post 117 Elefson-Zeuske as its members celebrate the 100th anniversary of their charter in Shawano, Wisconsin.

Post 117 was chartered on November 1, 1919 in the name of Edwin Elefson as a patriotic veterans organization dedicated to supporting America's service members and veterans. A member of the 32nd Red Arrow Division, Elefson was killed in action on September 14, 1918 in France. He is memorialized at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery.

The Post held its first meeting on November 17, 1919 shortly after 30 members signed the original charter. In 1942, the Post changed its name to Elefson-Zeuske in honor of Wilmer Zeuske. A Sergeant in the U.S. Army, Wilmer Zeuske was killed in action during World War II.

For 100 years, the Post has been an active member of the greater Shawano community by sponsoring numerous activities with the goal of improving the community, state, and nation. The members work hard to improve youth leadership through school programs, Boy Scout programs, and American Legion baseball.

The Post has helped develop statewide veteran programs to ensure that veterans are cared for when they return home from service. The members of Elefson-Zeuske truly embody the qualities of patriotism and selfless service to this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Post 117 for its support of veterans, students, and the Shawano community.

HONORING THELMA FIXLER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to mark a tremendous milestone for one of my constituents, Thelma Fixler of Larchmont, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on September 17, 2019.

Thelma has lived an amazing life, filled with some impressive roles. Born in Buffalo in 1919, she started singing at a young age, and after winning an inter-scholastic vocal contest at the age of 15, she matriculated at the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. Thelma graduated in 1942 and left Rochester for New York City to pursue a career in opera. A mezzo soprano, Thelma joined the chorus of the Broadway production of the operetta Rosalinda. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut on November 22, 1943 in Boris Godunov on opening night of the Met's Diamond Jubilee Year. This was the first time an American-born singer debuted on an opening night. Thelma sang at the Met for seven years, performing 299 times in roles including Suzuki in Madame Butterfly, Mercedes in Carmen, and numerous "pants" roles.

Thelma met her husband Robert (Bob) Fixler, an Army Air Corps veteran and New York attorney, and the two were wed in 1950. The couple moved to Larchmont Woods in New Rochelle in 1954 with their two young sons, Michael and Peter. The family joined Temple Israel of New Rochelle, and Thelma became an active member of the Sisterhood and served as its president from 1983 to 1985. Thelma spent a number of years as a volunteer with the New Rochelle Meals on Wheels program and with the Coalition for Mutual Respect, an African American-Jewish dialogue group. After Bob passed away, Thelma moved to Larchmont in 1999 and remained an active member of her synagogue, including helping to plan monthly lunch-and-learn events. She regularly attends Met Opera live broadcasts, frequents Westchester restaurants with friends, and enjoys attending Broadway shows and shopping with her grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on this special occasion I want to personally wish Thelma a very happy 100th birthday and thank her for the years of service and dedication she has shown to the community.

CONGRATULATING ROD BARONNER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Rod Baronner, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Rod came to Encompass Health for rehabilitation following brain surgery. When he first arrived, he required a hoyer lift to get him out of bed due to his weakness. Rod had to focus on the basic fundamentals from the beginning, including to lift his head.

As his rehabilitation continued, his wife Rose began to attend more therapy sessions and helped Rod in his recovery.

In 43 days in rehabilitation, he progressed from limited mobility, to requiring only steadying assistance to walk with a walker and was able to care for himself. He continues to make progress each and every day and has been able to return to things he loves like camping with his family.

It is thrilling to hear what Rod was able to accomplish with hard work and determination.

Congratulations once again to Rod on this recognition.

CONGRATULATING AMY CAMPBELL ON BEING NAMED WASHINGTON STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Amy Campbell, from Camas, Washington on being named Washington state's Teacher of the Year.

Amy has been teaching special education at Helen Baller Elementary for the past 12 years and has been an invaluable resource for students and families in Camas.

The Washington State Teacher of the Year program helps shine a much-deserved light on our educators who are dedicated to their students and communities—and Amy is no exception.

From helping make her students feel inspired, to encouraging them to see their own potential, Amy works tirelessly to ensure each one of her students is successful. This kind of hard work and dedication is exactly why Amy was given this well-earned recognition.

Once again, I want to congratulate Amy on receiving this honor. I want to thank her and all of our teachers for their hard work and devotion in serving our students and families in Southwest Washington.

HONORING THE KESSELRING NAVAL PROPULSION SITE IN WEST MILTON, NY FOR RECEIVING THE TOWN HERITAGE AWARD ON THEIR 70TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kesselring Naval Propulsion Site in West Milton, NY for receiving the Town Heritage Award on the occasion of its 70th anniversary.

The Kesselring Naval Propulsion Site was founded in 1948 and began operations in 1955. Previously known as the West Milton site, it was renamed the Kenneth A. Kesselring Site in 1968. Despite being established to serve as a testing location for liquid-metal cooled power breeder reactors, the site's focus changed to the testing of propulsion plants through the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. Over the next four decades, several generations of power plants were successfully tested at Kesselring before being deployed onto submarines like the USS *Ohio*.

Today, the Kesselring Naval Propulsion Site serves as a training site for Nuclear Reactor Operators. Kesselring allows for trainees to have a hands-on experience to better prepare them for operating these complex systems. Kesselring has trained over 50,000 sailors since 1955.

On behalf of New York's 21st congressional district, I want to join The Saratoga County History Roundtable in honoring the Kesselring Naval Propulsion site and the Town of Milton on this historic occasion. I also want to thank the leadership team at Kesselring and the service members who have trained there for their dedicated service. I look forward to the continued success of the Kesselring Naval Propulsion site training future generations of sailors and submariners.

RECOGNIZING BUMP BOXES FOR WINNING SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR THROUGH THE TURNER CENTER SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bump Boxes in Peoria, Illinois for winning the Small Business of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

Bump Boxes was founded in 2015 by Christine and Leland Deehring as an idea to provide healthy and chemical-free products to expecting mothers through a monthly delivery service. They moved to their first warehouse in 2015, and by 2016 hit a $1 million revenue with six employees, which meant they had to add a second warehouse. In 2017, they hit $3 million in revenue with 11 employees and acquired Hello Mamas in addition to launching Glow Organics. By 2018, the business hit $8 million with 32 employees. They are currently thriving and continuing to develop their company. It takes dedication and hard work to keep a small business prospering and I am so proud of all Bump Boxes has done for the Peoria community.

It is because of community leaders like those at Bump Boxes that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Bump Boxes for winning the Small Business of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY BASS FISHING CLUB WINNING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the Auburn University Bass Fishing Club for winning the first ever Major League Fishing College Redcrest National Championship.

The championship took place in August in LaCrosse, Wisconsin on the Mississippi River.

The Auburn University Bass Fishing Club was founded in 2007. This season, the club will compete in up to 20 events.

Club members include Logan Parks, Lucas Lindsay, Will Phillips, Chase Mundhenke, Patch Pelt and Anthony Vinston.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Auburn University Bass Fishing Club.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL BAUER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael Bauer, a larger than life, beloved Chicagoan who made an impact on the most powerful American leaders as well as the most humble and vulnerable people.

Michael Bauer was only 66 years old when he passed away after a battle with cancer on August 29th. On September 3rd, hundreds gathered at Anshe Emet Synagogue on Chicago's north side to pay tribute to Michael and hear from some of the people whose lives were deeply affected by this passionate and exuberant activist.

Speakers included Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, a long-time and very close friend, who Michael worked day and night to help elect, as well as Senator DICK DURBIN, a friend and political ally. Governor JB Pritzker was in attendance along with several Members of Congress, including me, and many members of the State Legislature as well as officials at the County and local level.

Michael had a law degree and an MBA, but his real passions were fighting for the rights of the LGBTQ community, Holocaust Remembrance and progressive politics. As a gay man, he began his activism during the ravaging days of the AIDS epidemic, but he never stopped fighting to end all forms of discrimination. He worked to change laws at every level of government to assure the right of gay couples to marry and the rights of transgender people, among other issues.

Both of Michael's parents were Holocaust survivors, and he and his brother Jerry grew up without grandparents, aunts and uncles or cousins. Poignantly, Michael's beloved mother Tema Bauer, 103 years old, was at the funeral of her younger son. Not surprisingly, Michael played an important role in the establishment of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, Illinois, a city that is home to many survivors.

And Michael was deeply involved in politics, raising money and campaigning for his chosen candidates. His endorsement was heavily sought by Democratic candidates, but each had to pledge support for Michael's priorities, including protecting women's reproductive rights.

For nearly four decades, Michael shared his life with his partner and husband Roger Simon. They were inseparable, particularly going through the difficult phases of Michael's illness—Roger always at his side, always lovingly caring for his every need.

Michael was a dear, dear friend of mine. My husband and I loved to be in the same room with Michael and Roger, often watching Michael command the space—always forcefully making a point, or making a joke and being the force of nature that he was. He will be deeply missed.

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH OF THE 50TH UPWARD ACADEMY AT THE TYSON FOODS PLANT IN ZEELAND, MI

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of the 50th Upward Academy at the Tyson Foods Plant in Zeeland, Michigan.

This unique in-plant educational program offers a plethora of empowering resources and courses to all workers, from the frontlines to the offices, at no-cost. By partnering with local community organizations, Upward Academy provides team members the opportunity to access important classes that would otherwise be unattainable. Examples include English as a Second Language, General Educational Development (GED), and United States citizenship, among others. For new immigrants to the U.S., Upward Academy helps to assimilate and integrate them into American society, thereby creating a bedrock for their future success.

Moreover, the Upward Academy includes multiple components focused on workplace skills and professional training to develop talent, especially in rural or marginalized areas. This includes classes in driver education, computer technology, financial literacy, and a variety of soft skills. Through these programs, Upward Academy brings knowledgeable experts directly to workers so they can move beyond entry-level jobs, receive valuable qualifications, and perform at high levels.

The 50th launch of Upward Academy will open the door for all team members at Tyson's Plant in Zeeland, MI to strive beyond current limitations. Tyson Foods and Upward Academy's commitment to cultivating a modem workforce that is prepared for the 21st century will help our community grow stronger and make West Michigan a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Madam Speaker, please join me in officially recognizing the launch of the 50th Upward Academy at the Tyson Foods Plant in Zeeland, MI.

CONGRATULATING TIM HOYER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Tim Hoyer, this year's recipient of the Encompass Health Advocate Award.

Tim has been active with brain injury support groups since his own injury in 2012. In January 2016, Tim assumed leadership of the Blair County Brain Injury Support Group. He has also founded an Asperger's support group. Tim has taken special interest in each group member and encourages them to reach whatever goals they have set.

Tim is a tireless advocate in our community, and his work is truly deserving of this recognition.

Congratulations once again to Tim on this recognition

HONORING THE LIFE OF DON ALLEN WOLF

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the incredible life of Mr. Don Wolf. Don was an upstanding citizen, father, husband and business leader in northeast Indiana who dedicated his life to the humble service of others. The lives of his fellow Hoosiers have been vastly improved because of Don's generosity and good will.

Don truly lived out the American Dream. He established Do It Best Hardware which is presently the largest privately-held company in the state of Indiana and has a large presence across the entire country. The City of Fort Wayne and the entire Hoosier State feels a deep sense of pride in counting him as one of our own.

Achieving great success, Don set out to better the community he loved so much and worked to significantly improve the lives of those around him. His many philanthropic efforts range from serving as the first president of Big Brothers of Greater Fort Wayne, the founder of Study Connection, and a member of the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame. There can be no doubt that Don's top priority was to set our future generations up for success.

The positive impact Don made on his city, his state, and people across the country will not soon be lost or forgotten. Through a life as a business leader and community servant, Don Wolf shines as an example of what it means to live well and live for others.

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER PEORIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR WINNING THE COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR THROUGH THE TURNER CENTER SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council for winning the Community Partner of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

The Greater Peoria Economic Development Council—a non-profit organization focused on helping local businesses, site selectors and the local community develop in the Peoria community—is a wonderful resource for all businesses in the Peoria area. The Council currently runs several programs, including Elevate, Manufacturing Network, Economic Gardening, Startup, Pathways, Hello Greater Peoria, Farm Forums and Co Starters. These programs all help local businesses thrive. I commend the Council for all of its work in Peoria and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

It is because of community builders like the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council for winning the Community Partner of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

HONORING EPISCOPAL HOMES OF MINNESOTA ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Episcopal Homes of Minnesota on its 125th anniversary of caring for and serving senior communities in Saint Paul.

Episcopal Homes began in 1894 with a visionary leader named Sister Annette Relf. Sister Annette was a hospital nurse and Minnesota's first Episcopal Deaconess, who saw a need for a home and place of comfort for poor and elderly women. The first home was founded at 710 Martin Street in Saint Paul. In 1909, Sister Annette herself became a resident of the home until she died in 1915. The tradition of strong women's leadership continued in 1930, when Eliza May was elected as the first President of the Board and women took over daily management of the home.

The Great Depression brought major challenges to the community, and the federal government responded by granting the home an exception from taxes. The Social Security Act was passed which kept many residents out of poverty by providing retirement security. After World War II, the home grew to accommodate 70 residents. In 1970, the home officially became the Episcopal Church Home of Minnesota. The need for more supportive services led to the hiring of an occupational therapist who could address the physical, recreation and social needs of residents.

Episcopal Homes has continued to grow to serve residents, receiving a major grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to build subsidized housing for seniors. In 2011, Kings Crossing Apartments opened in Saint Paul's Frogtown neighborhood, which HUD lauded as a model for innovative community planning and neighborhood revitalization. This federal investment has continued and been valuable to Episcopal Homes' nine senior communities located near Green Line Light Rail stops along University Avenue in Saint Paul. Episcopal Homes has won numerous awards and recognition for its care and services—including those from Aging Services of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, the Midway Chamber of Commerce, the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and U.S. News & World Report.

Today, Episcopal Homes is home to more than 1400 residents who thrive in their retirement years through the continuum of care offered through the homes in the heart of Saint Paul. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the 125th anniversary of Episcopal Homes of Minnesota's dedication to building affordable, diverse, vibrant communities and enhancing the lives of older adults.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH JANE KERLEY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Elizabeth (Betty) Jane Kerley, who died peacefully at her Rossmoor home on May 22, 2019. Betty was born on March 6, 1923 in Oakland to first-generation Welsh immigrants, Hugh and Anna Williams. Betty was the youngest of three children and was very proud of her Welsh stock. She was a lively and resilient child, qualities that she drew upon throughout her long life.

When Betty was ten, her mother died of pneumonia. Betty took charge of the house, helped by her father Hugh and their housekeeper Mrs. Benson.

Betty's father was a noted professional singer who was once Director of the famed Grace Cathedral Boys Choir. Believing that his daughter was a child prodigy, he encouraged her to pursue her unquestionable musical talents to become a concert pianist. Betty attended San Francisco State College to pursue a teaching degree, and in 1944, she married William Strehl, a Seabee who shipped out shortly after their marriage. Their first child Katherine was born in 1944 and their son Bill in 1954.

In 1959, Betty became a single mother raising two children on her own. She secured a position with the University of California's Office of the President, and worked at UC for 17 years. Betty met and married Robert F. Kerley (Bob) in 1975, and moved with him to Rossmoor in 1977. There they joined a vibrant community of UC retirees and enjoyed many years of retirement. Betty enjoyed art and gardening, and she and Bob worked tirelessly in her daughter's garden in Menlo Park, California. She started her own interior decorating company, but her real passion was painting . . . first with oils and later watercolors. She lived a long and happy life and was known for her loving smile, her loyalty to family and friends, her wit and laughter, the glint in her eye and for always being a classy lady. She was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

Betty is survived by her two children: Katherine (Bill Dempsey) Strehl of Menlo Park, California, Bill (Sue) Strehl of Eugene, Oregon and stepchildren, Kathleen James of Bend, Oregon, Maureen (Taylor) Douglas of Bend, Oregon, Barbara Neill of Austin, Texas and Bill (Jerri Townsend) of Austin, Texas; ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Her beloved husband of 31 years, Bob, died in 2006. She is also survived by her loving caregiver Atiola Raura, Ati's husband Emosi, and their family of seven children who brought love and joy to Betty in her last six years of life.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Elizabeth Jane Kerley, and in extending our most sincere condolences to her family and loved ones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on September 12, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 529 and Roll Call 530. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Nay on Roll Call Vote 529 and No on Roll Call Vote 530.

CONGRATULATING ADAM GEE

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Adam Gee, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Adam first came to Encompass Health in December of 2018 after falling off a ladder at work and sustaining a spinal cord injury. He arrived on his first day in a wheelchair. Adam knew that he had a long road to recovery ahead of him, but he was determined to emerge victorious. Adam set goals and strived to meet them each session. He struggled to take his first few steps after the injury, barely walking three feet, but that did not deter him.

During his rehabilitation, Adam continued to work and live his life. He chose to modify his everyday tasks, rather than sit and wait for things to get better.

It is thrilling to hear all that Adam was able to accomplish with hard work and determination.

Congratulations once again to Adam on this recognition.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE JANET POSS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. DELAURA. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts but the greatest of memories that I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Janet Poss as family, friends, and colleagues gather to remember her invaluable contributions to the Guilford community. We lost Jan earlier this year and at the age of ninety-six she certainly lived a full life, but her presence will most certainly be missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known her.

Jan was one of the community giants on whose shoulders we all stand. She was incredibly generous with her time and energy, serving on a myriad of boards and commissions throughout her life. The Youth Services Board, the Guilford ABC program, the East Shore Adult Daycare Center, the Human Services Council of Guilford, Guilford Interfaith Housing, and the East Shore League of Women Voters are just some of the organizations she dedicated countless hours to over the years.

In addition to that, Jan also served in public life, having been elected as both a member of the Guilford Board of Selectmen and as the State Representative for Connecticut's 98th District. She was best known for no-nonsense personality—she worked on behalf of the people she served and did not apologize for doing what she believed was right. Jan was also known as a voice of reason during the most heated of debates.

Jan was also a mentor to many in the community who followed her in public service. There are many who can tell you stories of her sitting down with those interested in seeking public office and working out a strategy to ensure an election night victory. I have the fondest of memories of Jan from when I first ran for office. She was an extraordinary sounding board and had a great sense of humor. I consider myself fortunate to have called her my friend.

It extend my deepest sympathies to Jan's family and hope that they know what a remarkable impact she had on all of those who knew her. Jan has left an indelible mark on the Guilford community and a legacy of service and dedication to which we all should strive.

HONORING LILLIAN STEWART

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lillian Stewart and to extend my deepest condolences to her family upon her passing at the blessed age of 95. Ms. Stewart was a devoted mother, grandmother, and community activist. I am also privileged to have been able to call Ms. Stewart my friend.

Born in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, in 1923, Ms. Stewart was born the middle of five children. She spent her formative years in Washington, D.C., where she attended Garnet-Patterson Junior High School and Cardoza High School.

After graduating from high school, Ms. Stewart went on to continue her education, completing a postgraduate course in Cosmetology at Madame CJ Walker's College of Beauty Culture; a foreign language course at the University of the District of Columbia; and medical secretary training by the District of Columbia Medical Society; and earning a Montgomery Ward Consumer Education ''Art of Interior Decorating Home Fashion Forum'' certificate.

Ms. Stewart spent much of her professional career at Howard University Hospital, where she served in several support and junior management positions. She retired from the hospital as Hospital Utilization Review Coordinator. Upon retirement, Ms. Stewart dedicated her time to a range of community activities and small business ventures. She was active in the AARP Shepherd Park Chapter No. 2667, chair of the Southwest Advisory Council-Southwest Health Clinic and was a D.C. Public Notary. Ms. Stewart was also an outspoken activist. She actively protested the planned closure of DC General Hospital, located in a predominately African American neighborhood, in 2001.

As a mother, Ms. Stewart encouraged a pursuit of education in her children. She was

privileged to live to witness her three children's professional accomplishments in communications, medicine, and photography. She also leaves behind six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

On a personal note, I had the honor of spending private time with Ms. Stewart thanks to her loving son Dwight who has been a dear friend for decades. I loved being with her. She brought me joy and made me laugh. Her colorful descriptions and deep insights were remarkable. I attended mass with her on several occasions and she demonstrated in words and deeds her belief in God, who she knew was all merciful and loving. I will deeply miss Ms. Stewart, but her indomitable spirit will endure forever.

Today, I join Ms. Stewart's family in celebrating her life and enduring legacy. May she rest in power and in peace.

HONORING AMERICAN CLERGY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE NATIONAL PARENTS' DAY AWARDS LUNCHEON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize and honor this year's National Parents' Day Award Luncheon hosted by the American Clergy Leadership Conference in my district, New York 16.

In 1994, Congress unanimously passed ''The Parents' Day Resolution''—which I cosponsored—establishing the fourth Sunday of July as an annual holiday, like Mother's Day and Father's Day. National Parents' Day this year will actually be on Sunday, July 28.

The American Clergy Leadership conference is an interfaith and interracial coalition of faith leaders working together beyond denomination to strengthen marriages and families, renew communities and our nation. ACLC ministers share the vision that America should be an example to the world showing how all people can live together as one family.

To mark National Parents' Day, the ACLC is promoting family as a way to support the community by upholding and awarding people who have been role models in parenting their children and serving the broader community.

As Representative and a proud parent of three wonderful children, I applaud the work the ACLC is doing to recognize and celebrate all of the wonderful parents we have in this amazing district. I want to congratulate this year's ACLC Awards Luncheon honorees and thank them, along with our dear friends in ACLC, for all they do every day to better our community and create a strong foundation on which our children can learn and grow.

RECOGNIZING LUX BLOX FOR WINNING INNOVATION OF THE YEAR THROUGH THE TURNER CENTER SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lux Blox for winning the Innovation of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

Lux Blox was founded by Michael and Heather Acerra of Galesburg, Illinois, who created a construction system designed to build things the same way nature builds itself. The blocks curve, bend and move without the limits of traditional building blocks. With the help of Daniel Wollin, a 15 year-old down the street from their home, and a 3-D printer, they developed these innovative building blocks. Their product aims to inspire future creativity and exploration. The blocks are manufactured near Galesburg, Illinois, and are packaged by the skilled hands of those with disabilities living their community.

It is because of community pioneers like Lux Blox that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Lux Blox for winning the Innovation of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

CONGRATULATING BREENEN YINGLING

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Breenen Yingling, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

This past summer, Breenen and his brother were diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia. This disease affects balance, coordination, mobility, and the heart. There is no treatment or cure, but that has not deterred the boys. Following their diagnosis, they started selling blue ''Fight Ataxia'' bracelets and donated all proceeds to research.

Since coming to Encompass Health, Breenen and his brother have always showed up with a fighting spirit and a positive attitude each session as they participate in aqua and land therapy to maintain muscle strength and mobility.

It is thrilling to hear that Breenen was also able to help others in his program to push a little harder once they saw his work ethic.

Congratulations once again to Breenen on the recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARISOL CHALAS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Marisol Chalas for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow in my office and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Lieutenant Colonel Chalas is transitioning from her current assignment to serve as the Legislative Assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army.

Born in Bani, Dominican Republic, Lieutenant Colonel Chalas moved with her family to the United States at the age of nine. She began her military career as an enlisted Soldier in July 1990, and in 2001 she received her commission as Second Lieutenant in the Aviation branch from the Georgia Military Institute Officer Candidate School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering from Massachusetts Maritime Academy, a Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University and a Master of Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Lieutenant Colonel Chalas has served in a broad range of assignments during her extensive military career. These include two rotations as Company Commander, operational experience at multiple echelons with Army units and Joint Task forces, international duties with Dominican Republic Canadian Forces, and completion of the Army Congressional Fellowship program.

In 2017, as an Army Congressional Fellow, I had the privilege of working with Lieutenant Colonel Chalas in my office for a year and during her subsequent assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. She worked tirelessly as Defense Fellow, assisted my office on a range of legislative issues, and coordinated with Members of Congress and their staffs to accurately articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. Her professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and her work both as a fellow and as a liaison very effectively represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the United States Congress.

Throughout her career, Lieutenant Colonel Chalas has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession. I join my colleagues today in honoring her dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Lieutenant Colonel Chalas since the first session of the 115th Congress. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Marisol for her service to our country and wish her all the best as she continues her service in the United States Army.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF HOPE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 250th anniversary of Hope Township, New Jersey. Hope Township is a community with rich history, located in my District, the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey.

Hope Township is one of the earliest planned communities in our nation. In 1769, German Moravians settled in what is now Hope Township. Prior to 1769, several families farmed on Jenny Jump Mountain and on John

Samuel Green, Jr.'s farm in the center of what is now the Village in Hope Township.

The first industrial building in Hope was the Grist Mill and its Mill Race which diverted a channel of water to the Mill to grind flour. This was built in one year and began immediate production, which continued into the 1950s. A tragic fire in 1918 destroyed several blocks in the town, but Hope bounced back, even stronger than before. Major development often bypassed Hope, which has allowed the Township to maintain the original town structure for so many decades.

In 1973, Hope Township was named a Historic Place in both the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places, and the Township has maintained its commitment to preserving history.

Under the leadership of Mayor Tim McDonough and the Township Committee, Hope Township has continued to flourish. I encourage my colleagues to come enjoy the natural beauty of Hope Township and visit great attractions including the Land of Make Believe, the Hope Historical Museum, and the Inn at Millrace Pond.

As the Representative for the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey, I am proud to recognize Hope Township on their 250th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hope Township for reaching this amazing milestone and look forward to many great years ahead.

U.S. TREASURY SETTLES WITH DR. VALENTIN GAPONTSEV

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the settlement concluded between the Department of Treasury and my constituent, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev, acknowledging that Dr. Gapontsev is not a Russian oligarch for purposes of the CAATSA listing that appears on Treasury's website. Dr. Gapontsev is the founder and CEO of IPG Photonics, headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts, a global leader in fiber laser technology. I have followed his dispute with Treasury for over 18 months, and I am glad to see it resolved favorably on behalf of my constituent.

Therefore, I include in the RECORD the following: September 11, 2019 Letter from Department of the Treasury to Dr. Gapontsev; September 11, 2019 Press Release by IPG Photonics; and September 11, 2019 Washington Post article, "Treasury admits Russian-born physicist shouldn't be on oligarch list that it cribbed from Forbes."

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2019.

Dr. VALENTIN P. GAPONTSEV,
c/o IPG Photonics Corporation,
Oxford, MA.

IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION,
Oxford, MA.

DEAR DR. GAPONTSEV AND IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION: The following concerns the Secretary of the Treasury's unclassified report to Congress on January 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 241 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (''CAATSA''), Pub. L. No. 115–44, 131 Stat. 886 (2017) (''the Section 241 Report''). The United States Department of the Treasury is of the opinion that, if it had to create the unclassified report today, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev would not be listed among oligarchs in the Russian Federation referred to in Section 241 of CAATSA. Consequently, Dr. Gapontsev is not an oligarch in the Russian Federation for purposes of Section 241 of CAATSA. The Department's view is based on information we did not have at the time the report was submitted to Congress. Among other things, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev is a U.S. citizen and chairman and CEO of IPG Photonics Corporation, a publicly-traded corporation headquartered in the United States.

Any reference to Dr. Valentin Gapontsev in the unclassified Section 241 Report does not reflect any judgment of the Treasury Department regarding compliance with U.S. law, including those relating to sanctions against Russia or its oligarchs.

Sincerely,

PAUL AHERN,
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes.

[From IPG Photonics, September 11, 2019]

US TREASURY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT VALENTIN GAPONTSEV IS NOT AN OLIGARCH

DR VALENTIN GAPONTSEV AND IPG SETTLE LITIGATION WITH US TREASURY OVER CONGRESSIONAL REPORT

OXFORD, MA.—IPG Photonics Corporation (NASDAQ: IPGP) today announced that the U.S. Treasury publicly acknowledged Dr. Valentin P. Gapontsev is not an oligarch in the Russian Federation for purposes of Section 241 of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Litigation over his inclusion in the so-called oligarch report was resolved in consideration for the Treasury Department's official and public finding that Dr. Gapontsev is not an oligarch in the Russian Federation, and he would not be included in the report to Congress if it were compiled today.

Dr. Valentin P. Gapontsev, founder and CEO of IPG Photonics, a U.S.-based global leader in fiber laser technology, sued the U.S. Treasury in December 2018 over its report to Congress listing him as an oligarch of the Russian Federation under CAATSA. Dr. Gapontsev asserted that the U.S. Treasury had no basis in law or fact for including him in the report.

The letter, signed by Paul Ahern, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, says ''Treasury is of the opinion that, if it had to create the unclassified report today, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev would not be listed among oligarchs in the Russian Federation referred to in Section 241 of CAATSA based upon information it did not have when the report was submitted to Congress.'' The letter also states ''[a]ny reference to Dr. Valentin Gapontsev in the unclassified 2018 report does not reflect any judgment of the Treasury Department regarding compliance with U.S. law.'' The Treasury published the letter on its website at https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Letter-09–11–2019.pdf.

''Ever since the Treasury Department issued the 2018 CAATSA report to Congress, we have asserted that it was wrong in declaring Dr. Gapontsev to be a Russian oligarch. We are pleased that the Treasury has finally admitted this much in its letter,'' said Angelo Lopresti, IPG Photonics' General Counsel. He continued, ''During a court hearing, the U.S. Government conceded that the U.S. Treasury based its unclassified CAATSA oligarch report entirely on a list taken from a 2017 Forbes Magazine article. Dr. Gapontsev, a U.S. citizen, is a world-renowned scientist and entrepreneur who created thousands of U.S. jobs as he commercialized fiber laser technology.''

On January 29, 2018, the U.S. Treasury Secretary designated 96 individuals as ''oligarchs in the Russian Federation'' pursuant to Section 241 of the CAATSA, including Dr. Valentin Gapontsev. IPG Photonics, headquartered in Massachusetts, is the world leader in fiber laser technology, with more than 4,000 customers, 25 facilities and 6,000 employees worldwide.

Dr. Gapontsev asserted in the litigation that his wealth stems entirely from successfully growing IPG Photonics and his fiber laser innovations over the last three decades, not from any connections with the Russian government.

ABOUT IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION

IPG Photonics Corporation is the leader in high-power fiber lasers and amplifiers used primarily in materials processing and other diverse applications. The company's mission is to make its fiber laser technology the tool of choice in mass production. IPG accomplishes this mission by delivering superior performance, reliability and usability at a lower total cost of ownership compared with other types of lasers and non-laser tools, allowing end users to increase productivity and decrease costs. A member of the S&P 500® Index, IPG is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts and has more than 25 facilities worldwide. For more information, visit www.ipgphotonics.com.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 11, 2019]

TREASURY ADMITS RUSSIAN-BORN PHYSICIST SHOULDN'T BE ON OLIGARCH LIST THAT IT CRIBBED FROM FORBES

(By Steven Mufson)

The U.S. Treasury Department issued a letter Wednesday stating that Valentin P. Gapontsev, an 80-year-old laser physicist who became a U.S. citizen a decade ago, does not belong on a list of Russian oligarchs that Treasury admitted in court to having cribbed entirely from a 2017 Forbes Magazine article.

Gapontsev, who has built a $6.8 billion company called IPG Photonics based in Oxford, Mass., was No. 27 on the list of 96 Russians that Treasury gave Congress when lawmakers were eager to retaliate for Russian interference in U.S. elections.

In the letter Treasury issued Wednesday, it said it was revising its view ''based on information we did not have at the time the report was submitted to Congress.''

Gapontsev has said that he never belonged on the list and that he had feared that Congress might use the list as a tool for applying pressure on the Kremlin. He said that unlike the Russian oligarchs, he built his company over three decades based on its advanced laser technology, not Kremlin connections.

Under sanctions law, targets could be banned from entering the United States, and their assets could be frozen. Some lawmakers in 2018 quickly launched a letter-writing initiative aimed at getting financial institutions to identify the assets of people on the list as a way to make banks skittish about doing business with them.

Treasury wouldn't budge on the listing, however, and Gapontsev filed suit in federal court Dec. 3, 2018.

The Treasury said in a settlement Wednesday that Gapontsev did not belong on the list under Section 241 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. It said that it was ''of the opinion that, if it

had to create the unclassified report today, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev would not be listed among oligarchs in the Russian Federation.''

The CAATSA legislation was passed by overwhelming margins in Congress on Aug. 2, 2017, in a rare show of bipartisanship. The measure demanded both classified and unclassified lists of ''the most significant senior foreign political figures and oligarchs in the Russian Federation, as determined by their closeness to the Russian regime and their net worth.''

''Ever since the Treasury Department issued the 2018 CAATSA report to Congress, we have asserted that it was wrong in declaring Dr. Gapontsev to be a Russian oligarch. We are pleased that the Treasury has finally admitted this much in its letter,'' Angelo Lopresti, IPG Photonics' general counsel, said in a statement.

Gapontsev earned his doctorate and worked at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. In 1990, at age 51, he started IPG Photonics, which produces high-power fiber-optic lasers for telecommunications and cutting materials. He also opened facilities in Burbach, Germany.

But he soon moved the firm to the United States, then his biggest market. BellSouth was one of his main customers. He raised $100 million of private-equity investments from U.S. firms.

''During a court hearing, the U.S. Government conceded that the U.S. Treasury based its unclassified CAATSA oligarch report entirely on a list taken from a 2017 Forbes Magazine article,'' Lopresti added.

He said that Gapontsev ''is a world-renowned scientist and entrepreneur who created thousands of U.S. jobs as he commercialized fiber laser technology.''

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5499–S5545

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2481–2493, and S. Res. 313–315. **Page S5539**

Measures Passed:

Centennial of the Aerospace Industries Association: Senate agreed to S. Res. 314, honoring the centennial of the Aerospace Industries Association. **Page S5512**

Destro Nomination—Cloture: By 49 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 286), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. **Page S5511**

A unanimous-consent agreement reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination. **Page S5512**

McIntosh Nomination—Cloture: By 54 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 287), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S5511–12**

Callanan Nomination—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury. **Page S5512**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 288), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5512**

Nominations–Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the post-cloture time on the nominations of Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, and Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, expire at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, September 18, 2019. **Page S5512**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 63 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 283), John Rakolta, Jr., of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. **Pages S5500–08**

By 62 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 285), Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden. **Pages S5508–11**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 63 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. EX. 284), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5508**

Messages from the House: **Page S5537**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5537–38**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S5539**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5539–41**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements: **Page S5537**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5542–45**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5545**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5545**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—288) **Pages S5507–08, S5511–12**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:17 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5512.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for

the Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for Financial Services and General Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded a hearing to examine the situation in Southeastern Europe, after receiving testimony from Damon M. Wilson, Atlantic Council; David O. Shullman, International Republican Institute; and Janusz Bugajski, Center for European Policy Analysis.

MINERALS FOR CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the sourcing and use of minerals needed for clean energy technologies, after receiving testimony from Daniel Simmons, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Morgan D. Bazilian, Colorado School of Mines Payne Institute for Public Policy, Golden; Allison Carlson, FP Analytics, and W. Robert Kang, Blue Whale Materials LLC, both of Washington, D.C.; and Mark P. Mills, Manhattan Institute, New York, New York.

HOLOCAUST-ERA INSURANCE CLAIMS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Holocaust-era insurance claims, after receiving testimony from Baird Webel, Specialist in Financial Economics, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Stuart E. Eizenstat, former Ambassador and Special Advisor on Holocaust Issues, Department of State; David Mermelstein, Holocaust Survivors of Miami-Dade County, Miami, Florida; Anna B. Rubin, New York State Department of Financial Services Holocaust Claims Processing Office, New York, New York; and Samuel J. Dubbin, Holocaust Survivors Foundation USA, Coral Gables, Florida.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE ANTITRUST LAWS OVERSIGHT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded an oversight hearing to examine enforcement of the antitrust laws, after receiving testimony from Joseph Simons, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission; and Makan Delrahim, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice.

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.

Daily Digest

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 4340–4369; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 559–560 were introduced. **Pages H7753–54**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7755–56**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 558, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1423) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 116–210). **Pages H7741, H7752**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Peters to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7717**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H7719**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Brother Peter Tabichi, OFM Keriko Mixed Day Secondary School, Pwani Village, Kenya. **Page H7719**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H7719**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act: H.R. 2211, amended, to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury; **Pages H7720–23**

Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019: H.R. 1618, amended, to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes; **Pages H7723–27**

Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019: H.R. 806, amended, to require compliant flame mitigation devices to be used on portable fuel containers for flammable liquid fuels; **Pages H7727–29**

Helen Keller National Center Reauthorization Act of 2019: H.R. 2134, amended, to reauthorize the Helen Keller National Center for Youths and Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind; and **Pages H7732–34**

Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act: H.R. 2486, amended, to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions. **Pages H7734–37**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:56 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H7741**

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020—Motion to go to Conference: The House agreed by unanimous consent to take from the Speakers table the bill S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House; to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof provisions of H.R. 2500 as passed by the House; to pass the Senate bill, as amended; and to insist on the House amendment thereto and request a conference with the Senate thereon. **Pages H7737–41, H7741–42, H7743–44, H7745**

Rejected the Thornberry motion to instruct conferees by a yea-and-nay vote of 198 yeas to 219 nays, Roll No. 531. **Pages H7738–41, H7741–42**

Agreed to the Smith (WA) motion to close portions of the conference by a yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 532. **Pages H7743–44**

Later, the Chair appointed the following conferees: From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the Senate bill and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Smith of Washington, Davis of California, Langevin, Larsen of Washington, Cooper, Courtney, Garamendi, Speier, Norcross, Gallego, Moulton, Carbajal, Brown of Maryland, Khanna, Keating, Vela, Kim, Kendra S. Horn of Oklahoma, Cisneros, Thornberry, Wilson of South Carolina, Turner, Rogers of Alabama, Conaway, Lamborn, Wittman, Hartzler, Stefanik, Kelly of Mississippi, Bacon, Banks, and Cheney. **Page H7745**

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Representatives Schiff, Sewell of Alabama, and Nunes. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on the Budget, for consideration of secs. 4 and 10608 of the Senate bill, and secs. 1006 and 1112 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Yarmuth, Peters, and Johnson of Ohio. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of secs. 571, 572, and 5501 of the Senate bill, and secs. 211, 576, 580, 1099N, 1117, 3120, and 3503 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Scott of Virginia, Trahan, and Foxx of North Carolina. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 214, 315, 318, 703, 3112, 3113, 3201–03, 5318, 6001, 6006, 6021, 6701, 6711, 6721–24, 6741, 6742, 6751–54, 8101, 8202, 10421, 10422, and 10742 of the Senate bill, and secs. 315, 330F, 330H, 3300, 606, 737, 3111, 3112, 3127, 3128, 3201, and 3202 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Pallone, Tonka, and Upton. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of secs. 6017, 6018, 6804, 6811, 6813–16, 6834, 6835, and title LXIX of the Senate bill, and secs. 550K, 560G, subtitle I of title X, secs. 1240B, 1292, 1704, 1711, 1713–16, 1733,

and 2843 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Waters, Sherman, and Barr. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of secs. 834, 1011, 1043, 1202, 1203, 1205, 1206, 1211, 1212, 1215, 1221–24, 1231–36, 1238, 1252, 1281–84, title XIII, secs. 1671, 1681, 2822, 6203–06, 6210, 6213, 6215, 6231, 6236, title LXVIII, secs. 6921, 6922, 6931, 6941, 6943, 6954, part I of subtitle B of title LXXXV, secs. 8562, and 10701 of the Senate bill, and secs. 634, 1036, 1046, 1050, 1099X, 1201, 1202, 1204, 1207, 1210, 1213, 1215, 1218, 1221–25, 1229, 1231–34, 1240A, 1241, 1250D, 1251, 1255, 1258, 1260A, 1260B, 1265, 1266, 1269, 1270, 1270G, 1270H, 1270I, 1270N, 1270R, 1270S, 1270T, 1270W, subtitle I of title XII, subtitle J of title XII, title XIII, secs. 1521, 1669, and title XVII of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. Engel, Meeks, and McCaul. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of secs. 6006, 6012, and 8543 of the Senate bill, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Rose of New York, Underwood, and Walker. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 1025, 1031, 1044, 1682, 6004, 6206, 6804, 6811, 6813–16, 6835, 6921, and 6944 of the Senate bill, and secs. 530F, 530G, 550D, 550F, 550J, 570H, 729, 827, 1011, 1048, 1049, 1050C, 1093, 1099C, 1099K, 1099V, 1099Z–3, 1212, 1296A, 1704, 1711, 1713–16, and 1733 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Nadler, Lofgren, and Collins of Georgia. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 314, 2812, 2814, 6001, 6020, subtitle C of title LXVII, sec. 8524, part I of subtitle B of title LXXXV, secs. 8554, and 8571 of the Senate bill, and secs. 330G, 1094, 1099D, 1099F, 1099U, 2851, subtitle F of title XXVIII, secs. 2876, and 2880 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Grijalva, Haaland, and Bishop of Utah. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for consideration of secs. 218, 530, 559, 579, 1081, 1082, title XI, secs. 5802, 6012, subtitle B of title LXV, secs. 9304, 9307, 9311, 9313, 9314, 10303, 10432, 10434, 10601, 10603–05, 10612, 10741, and 10742 of the Senate bill, and secs. 212, 239, 550O, 629, 633, 804, 829, 842, 861, 872, 877, 883, 884, 891, 895, 899E, 899H, 899I, 1064, 1085, 1099B, title XI, secs. 1704, 1711, 1713–16, and 3127 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Lynch, Connolly, and Green of Tennessee. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of secs. 216, 219, 1612, 6001, 6006, 6008, 6009, 6742, 6754, 8524, and 10742 of the Senate bill, and secs. 214, 217, 882, and 1089 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Johnson of Texas, Sherrill, and Baird. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of sec. 841 of the Senate bill, and secs. 872–76, 878, 879, 881, 882, and 886–89 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Velázquez, Golden, and Chabot. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of secs. 353, 1612, 1682, 2805, title XXXV, secs. 6001, 6006, 6012, 6015, 6019, 6021, 6754, 8500, 8511, 8517, 8519, 8520, 8522, 8523, 8525, 8532, 8543, 8545, 8546, and 8571 of the Senate bill, and secs. 311, 313, 330A, 330O, 351, 354, 555, 569, 580C, 606, 896, 2808, 3501, and 3504 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Delgado, Pappas, and Katko. **Page H7745**

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of secs. 568, 721, 726, 727, 1083, 1431, 2812, 2813, 5702, and 6007 of the Senate bill, and secs. 530, 530A, 545, 546, 550E, 550G, 550H, 550I, 550J, 569, 570E, 570F, 574, 624, 705, 706, 713, 715, 1093, 1126, and 1411 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Takano, Brownley of California, and Watkins. **Page H7745**

Oath of Office—Ninth Congressional District of North Carolina: Representative-elect Dan Bishop presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a scanned copy of a letter received from Katelyn Love, General Counsel, North Carolina State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held September 10, 2019, the Honorable Dan Bishop was elected Representative to Congress for the Ninth Congressional District, State of North Carolina. **Pages H7742, H7747**

Oath of Office—Third Congressional District of North Carolina: Representative-elect Greg Murphy presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a scanned copy of a letter received from Katelyn Love, General Counsel, North Carolina State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held September 10, 2019, the

Honorable Gregory Murphy was elected Representative to Congress for the Third Congressional District, State of North Carolina. **Pages H7742, H7747**

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlemen from North Carolina, the whole number of the House is 435. **Page H7743**

Permitting States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 1689, to permit States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances. **Page H7744**

Alaska Remote Generator Reliability and Protection Act: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S. 163, to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices. **Pages H7744–45**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2019: H.R. 4285, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Pages H7729–32**

Health Information Technology Advisory Committee—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Dr. Jim Jirjis of Nashville, Tennessee. **Page H7747**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of his intent to enter into a trade agreement regarding tariff barriers with Japan—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–63). **Page H7719**

Senate Referral: S. Con. Res. 25 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform. **Page H7747**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H7719.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7741–42 and H7743–44. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PRESIDENTIAL OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE AND ABUSE OF POWER

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Presidential Obstruction of Justice and Abuse of Power". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FORCED ARBITRATION INJUSTICE REPEAL ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1423, the "Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act". The Committee granted, by record vote of 6–3, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1423, the "Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act". The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–32, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule waives the requirement of clause 6(a) of Rule XIII, for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of September 20, 2019, relating to a measure making or continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. Finally, the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of September 19, 2019, or September 20, 2019, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules and that the Speaker or her

designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cicilline and Armstrong.

BUSINESS MEETING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a business meeting on releasing certain executive session material. A motion to release certain executive session material passed, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine mass violence, extremism, and digital responsibility, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine improving American economic competitiveness through water resources infrastructure, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine United States policy in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on Hong Kong, alliances and partnerships, and other issues, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Andrew P. Bremberg, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador, John Leslie Carwile, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Anthony F. Godfrey, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Doug Manchester, of California, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, 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, Herro Mustafa, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, and Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Romania, all of the Department of State, routine lists in the Foreign Service, and other pending calendar business, 1:30 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine United States-Colombia relations, focusing on new opportunities to reinforce and strengthen the bilateral relationship, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office report on tribal access to spectrum, focusing on promoting communications services in Indian country, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Oversight Hearing: Mental Health Needs of Children in HHS Custody'', 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled ''Shattered Families, Shattered Service: Taking Military Domestic Violence Out of the Shadows'', 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4334, the ''Dignity in Aging Act of 2019''; and H.R. 4301, the ''School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled ''Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Pathways to Net Zero Industrial Emissions'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 123, the ''FHA Additional Credit Pilot Program Reauthorization Act''; H.R. 132, the ''North America Development Bank Improvement Act of 2019''; H.R. 4029, the ''Tribal Eligibility for Homeless Assistance Grants Act of 2019''; H.R. 4067, the ''Financial Inclusion in Banking Act of 2019''; H.R. 4242, the ''Greater Accountability in Pay Act of 2019''; H.R. 4300, the ''Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act of 2019''; H.R. 4302, the ''Facilitating Access to Homeless Assistance Act of 2019''; H.R. 4328, the ''Protecting Innocent Consumers Affected by a Shutdown Act''; H.R. 4329, the ''ESG Disclosure Simplification Act of 2019''; legislation to amend the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 to allow for the SEC to seek and Federal courts to grant restitution to investors and disgorgement of unjust enrichment; legislation on the 8–K Trading Gap Act of 2019; and legislation on the Corporate Management Accountability Act of 2019, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment; and Full Committee of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, joint hearing entitled ''Voices Leading the Next Generation on the Global Climate Crisis'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation, hearing entitled ''U.S. Interests in East Asia and the Pacific and the FY20 Budget'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism; and the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism of the House Committee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''Meeting the Challenge of White Nationalist Terrorism at Home and Abroad'', 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Smithsonian Institution'', 9 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 182, to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission; H.R. 263, to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge; H.R. 473, to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; H.R. 560, the ''Northern Mariana Islands Residents Relief Act''; H.R. 737, the ''Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2019''; H.R. 1023, the ''Great Lakes Fishery Research Authorization Act of 2019''; H.R. 1218, the ''American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act''; H.R. 1314, the ''Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act Amendments of 2019''; H.R. 1380, the ''Big Cat Public Safety Act''; H.R. 1446, the ''Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2019''; H.R. 2189, the ''Digital Coast Act''; H.R. 2245, the ''CECIL Act''; H.R. 2405, the ''National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2019''; H.R. 2406, the ''National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2019''; H.R. 2490, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2819, the ''Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled ''Overseeing the Overseers: Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency at 10 Years'', 11 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled ''Developing Core Capabilities for Deep Space Exploration: An Update on NASA's SLS, Orion, and Exploration Ground Systems'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''The Next Mile: Technology Pathways to Accelerate Sustainability within the Transportation Sector'', 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Role of the SBA's 8(a) Program in Enhancing Economic Opportunities'', 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''The Administration's Priorities and Policy Initiatives Under the Clean Water Act'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, business meeting to Reauthorize the Women Veterans' Task Force, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Critical Impact: How Barriers to Hiring at VA Affect Patient Care and Access'', 2:05 p.m., HVC–210.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine gun violence in America, focusing on understanding and reducing the costs of firearm injuries and deaths, 2:15 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nominations of Robert A. Destro, Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, and Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, at 11 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Brian Callanan, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2740, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 18

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 1423—Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act (Subject to a Rule).

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