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No. 154

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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.

### NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of more than 23 million Americans who are in recovery.

September is National Recovery Month. In 2019 we are celebrating 30 years of that designation. We are marking that today in Congress with an effort we are calling "Congress Goes Purple".

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues DENVER RIGGLEMAN, ANNIE KUSTER, and BRIAN FITZPATRICK for partnering with me to make this happen.

Those among us who are struggling with mental health concerns or substance use disorder need to know there is no shame in seeking help. Their journey to recovery is something to be celebrated.

These disorders don't discriminate, and neither should we in helping find people a path back. I came to Congress to help make recovery a real possibility for more Americans.

Starting in the mid-1990s, we have seen opioids invade and destroy fami-

lies across America. From the district I represent in Maryland to big cities and small towns across the country, there is not a single community that has not been fully spared from the devastating effects of the opioid epidemic. It is a true crisis.

For the first time in 100 years, we have seen life expectancy decline for 3 straight years in this country. Americans are dying sooner than their parents' generation, and we can blame the opioid epidemic.

The numbers are staggering. Last year, we saw over 70,000 people die of a drug overdose. More Americans have died in 1 year of drug overdose than from the wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq combined.

Behind each one of those numbers is a person. Behind each one of those numbers is a family and a community that feels the immense pain and loss. My family was one of those.

In 2016, on New Year's Eve, my nephew Ian Jacob Trone died of a fentanyl overdose. He was 24 years old, and he died alone in his hotel room.

I worked with Ian for over 5 years while he was struggling with addiction. We tried treatment centers and halfway houses and mental health specialists. I worked closely with him to do everything I could to get him the help he needed, and we still lost him.

Unfortunately, it is not just addiction numbers that are staggering. SAMHSA estimates in 2017, over 19 million people in the U.S. experienced substance use disorder, but of that group, 8.5 million also had a co-occurring mental illness.

This is the most important issue in America. We must act now and stop more people from losing their lives. I know if we are going to make a difference, then all of us, including the Federal Government, need to act. That is why, as a new Member of Congress, ending the opioid addiction epidemic is my number one priority.

I have started a bipartisan freshman working group, which is now composed

of 64 lawmakers from 31 States all dedicated to ending this epidemic. Together, we are pushing bills that will bring consistent funding and resources to those on the front lines who are fighting this every day. Most importantly, we are doing this together, both Democrats and Republicans. Every action we take is bipartisan. We need to work together if we are going to end the stigma around mental health and substance use disorders.

Right now someone suffering from substance use disorder is being thrown into jail instead of getting the treatment they need. We need to start treating this like the disease that it is. Instead of locking people up in jail, we need to reach out and give those that are struggling a helping hand.

That is why the message of National Recovery Month is so powerful. We can be that village. Together, we know this is a disease, not a crime. Together, we can put the focus on recovery so that no one has to do this alone.

Madam Speaker, I pledge to do everything in my power to make sure we end it. I thank the Representatives wearing purple today for recognizing the importance of National Recovery Month.

### SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER IS A CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor many Americans who are forgotten: those who have gone through difficult times that are now on a path of recovery.

Substance abuse disorders are running rampant throughout our communities all over America. They have crossed borders of race, ethnicity, gender, and politics. This crisis knows no bounds, and we are here to bring awareness to the fact that there is a

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

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



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way forward for each of these individuals.

I have hosted substance abuse awareness roundtables all across my district regularly and have heard from folks who have family, friends, or are themselves dealing with substance abuse. Many of these people you would have no idea they or people they knew were struggling.

But they were, Mr. Speaker. And this is why I rise with my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican alike, and wear the color purple today, to show that through love, care, faith, family, and community, we can help those walking through a very, very lonely valley.

We can uplift those who need it the most. We are all here to help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, today I come with a heavy heart, deeply concerned about the future of our democracy, and I am not alone.

People approach me everywhere I go, whether I am traveling back and forth to Atlanta or around our country. They believe, they truly believe, that our Nation is descending into darkness.

They never dreamed that the United States, once seen as a beacon of hope and as an inspiration to people striving for equality and justice, would be falling into such disgrace. I share their concerns for the future of our country.

It keeps me up at night. We took an oath to protect this Nation against all domestic enemies and foreign enemies.

Sometimes I am afraid to go to sleep for fear that I will wake up and our democracy will be gone and never return.

At every turn, this administration demonstrates complete disdain and disregard for ethics, for the law, and for the Constitution.

They have lied under oath. They refuse to account for their actions and appear before legislative bodies who have the constitutional right to inquire about their activities.

The people have a right to inquire, they have a right to know.

The people have a right to know whether they can put their faith and trust in the outcome of our elections.

They have a right to know whether the cornerstone of our democracy was undermined by people sitting in the White House today.

They have a right to know whether a foreign power was asked to intervene in the 2020 election.

They have a right to know whether the President is using his office to line his pockets.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this Nation realize that if they had committed even half of these possible violations, the Federal Government would be swift to seek justice.

We cannot delay. We must not wait. Now is the time to act.

I have been patient while we tried every other path and used every other tool.

We will never find the truth unless we use the power given to the House of Representatives, and the House alone, to begin an official investigation as dictated by the Constitution.

The future of our democracy is at stake. There comes a time when you have to be moved by the spirit of history to take action to protect and preserve the integrity of our Nation.

I believe, I truly believe, the time to begin impeachment proceedings against this President has come.

To delay or to do otherwise would betray the foundation of our democracy.

#### THE USMCA NEEDS TO BE RATIFIED NOW

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House leaders to give farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and businessowners the certainty they need, and ratify the USMCA.

Nearly 1 year ago, the United States, Mexico, and Canada concluded their negotiations and released the full text of a trade agreement.

But I stand here today nearly 1 year later, and the trade deal with our top trading partners is stalled.

Why? Well, the Speaker objected to the trade deal. Those objections were addressed, and yet the American people are still waiting.

Mr. Speaker, the USMCA will create 176,000 new American jobs. It will secure open access to markets in Mexico and Canada, markets critical to Montana farmers and ranchers.

Ratifying the USMCA should be a priority for this Congress, not impeachment fever.

I again call on the Speaker to work with the White House to get this trade deal with our top trading partners across the finish line.

#### PFAS CONTAMINATION

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, across the United States and in my district, we are seeing more and more communities threatened with PFAS contamination.

The proliferation of toxic PFAS chemicals throughout our environment is a risk to human health, and as Congress continues to act on this issue, we must listen to the families and citizens who have had to live with this contamination.

I cannot imagine the fear of a parent who has learned that their children's drinking water is contaminated with these harmful chemicals.

That is why earlier this year, I introduced legislation that would prohibit companies from adjusting PFAS chemicals at the molecular level to bypass environmental protection at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Turning off the tap for approving new PFAS chemicals is one step that Congress can take as we work to fully understand how expansive PFAS contamination is to our environment and to human health.

Congress must act on this issue, which is why last month, I convened a PFAS summit with my friend and colleague CHRIS PAPPAS to hear from environmental advocates, impacted families, and community leaders in New Hampshire who are on the front lines of cleaning up PFAS contamination.

□ 1215

We also heard from experts who are working on long-term solutions to cleaning up these "forever chemicals," and I am pleased to bring some of these ideas back to Washington as a member of the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force. This group has brought together Democrats and Republicans from across the country to put the issue of PFAS contamination front and center in Washington, D.C.

The PFAS Task Force has already been effective in advancing important provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act to help clean up contaminated sites and protect servicemembers, their families, and first responders who have been exposed.

As House and Senate leaders begin conferencing on this bill, it is critical that the final National Defense Authorization Act includes PFAS provisions from the House- and Senate-passed bills. Americans have waited long enough.

Congress has an important opportunity to pass bipartisan legislation that will protect veterans, current servicemembers, firefighters occupationally exposed to PFAS, and families in communities impacted by military PFAS contamination.

This issue is critical to my district and my State, and I will continue to work across the aisle with anyone who is willing to protect communities and future generations from PFAS contamination.

#### EXPAND MARKETS FOR AMERICAN DAIRY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of hosting U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue for a dairy and agriculture summit in Pennsylvania's 15th District at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pennsylvania.

Joining the Secretary and I was Gary Groves, Executive Director of the USDA Pennsylvania Farm Service

Agency; Russell Redding, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture secretary; and my colleagues Representative JOHN JOYCE and Representative FRED KELLER, among others.

The purpose of the event was to learn from our farm families about what is working, what is not, and where they need support the most. It was a privilege to host so many hardworking dairy farmers and to learn from their experiences.

It is important that there are resources available to help the dairy industry strengthen and grow. At the summit, we discussed these resources, like the USDA's new Dairy Margin Coverage Program. Programs like these are strengthening the safety net for farm families everywhere nationwide.

This revamped, voluntary program is one of the many tools available to dairy farmers around the Nation that offers more options, more flexibility, and a better return on investment.

Our Nation's farmers are always working hard. Owning and operating a farm is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year job. No matter where you are from, a strong agricultural industry benefits each and every one of our lives.

Of course, the hard work of these men and women would be lost without strong market opportunities. We must do more to expand opportunities for American dairy products, both domestically and internationally.

That means making pending trade agreements like the USMCA a reality by bringing it to a vote in the immediate future because Pennsylvania deserves freer markets, fairer trade, and increased economic opportunity.

As the Commonwealth's number one industry, the importance of a strong agricultural sector cannot be overstated. As the largest sector of the Pennsylvania agricultural industry, dairy production remains critical.

USMCA brings good news for dairy farmers in Pennsylvania and across the country, thanks to the elimination of Canada's class 6 and class 7 dairy pricing, which has unfairly limited our export potential.

Our agricultural industry, particularly our dairy farmers, are the backbone of Pennsylvania's economy, and their success directly impacts the well-being of the Commonwealth.

Passing USMCA is long overdue. It is time to signal to our Nation's farmers, manufacturers, small business owners, and two closest trade partners that we are serious about securing a bright future for American exports.

#### STILL I RISE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today with a belief that the Honorable JOHN LEWIS was eminently correct with his statement. He does not need my commentary; hence, I will not give commentary.

I just want the RECORD to reflect that on September 24, shortly after the noon hour, I had the preeminent privilege of being here in this very room to hear the Honorable JOHN LEWIS.

While I won't comment on his commentary, I will just comment on something that was on my heart as it relates to people who approach and ask questions about the state of affairs, the status of our country.

On yesterday, a young man, 9 years of age, his name is Alec. Alec is a variation of Alexander. Alexander means helper of humankind.

This 9-year-old young man expressed his concerns about our country—9 years of age. The proof of what I say can be validated because he was at the rally that was held right out front of the Rayburn House Office Building—9 years of age.

People of all ages who have been chronicling these events are asking questions. There are many answers to be given, but I think the Honorable JOHN LEWIS has given us the best. I am honored that I was here when he gave us pearls of wisdom to facilitate our going forward.

#### 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 22 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. CARSON of Indiana) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As Members of the people's House return to Washington, we ask Your blessing on them that they might be all the more focused in their work, and as modeled by so many Americans in their efforts these past days, prepared to work together to address our Nation's most pressing needs.

As a community of colleagues, we ask Your blessing upon Representative CLYBURN and his family, who mourn the loss of his beloved wife, Emily. May all those who mourn the loss of their loved ones be comforted by Your spirit and lifted up by the support of their colleagues and friends.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the whole number of the House is 434.

#### THE FAIR ACT MAKES FORCED ARBITRATION ILLEGAL

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FAIR Act that makes forced arbitration clauses illegal.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I worked to protect servicemembers and their families from negligently managed base housing and the contracts they were forced to sign to keep them quiet. Our servicemembers should have the right to advocate for themselves.

We cannot hold bad actors accountable when they can hide in arbitration proceedings. No one should have to sign away their right to go to court after experiencing sexual assault or discrimination, but that is exactly what forced arbitration clauses do.

Arbitration can be an option to solve disagreements without going to court, but everyone involved should get to choose. If you downloaded an app, signed up for a credit card, or signed an employment contract, you may have signed away your right to hold someone accountable. I don't believe that you can sign away your constitutional rights.

Mr. Speaker, I voted for the FAIR Act to level the playing field for consumers, small businesses, and workers across America, and I strongly urge the Senate to take it up as soon as possible.

#### HONORING LIEUTENANT JOHN JOSEPH WILEY

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the late Lieutenant, Junior Grade, John Joseph Wiley and the 129 men tragically lost aboard the USS *Thresher*.

This submarine departed its port on April 10, 1963, for a test dive. Unfortunately, it never returned.

John Joseph Wiley of Altoona, Pennsylvania, was among the lost. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy, he was selected for the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit. The USS *Thresher* was the first and the last submarine to which he would report.

This week, a new memorial honoring those lost aboard the USS *Thresher* will be dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery. More than half a century after the tragic disaster, our Nation has not forgotten the sacrifice of Lieutenant John Joseph Wiley and those Americans who died with him.

#### PFAS CONTAMINATION

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, in the richest country in the world, every American deserves clean drinking water, but for millions of our fellow citizens, including many in Michigan and all across the country, this is just not their reality.

Hundreds of communities are dealing with PFAS chemical contamination that pollutes their drinking water.

Congress has to act to address this contamination to help keep American families safe.

Earlier this year, the House and Senate both passed National Defense Authorization Act bills. Both contain important provisions meant to address PFAS chemicals were included in those bills. These provisions would fund cleanup of contaminated sites, stop PFAS from polluting our drinking water in the future, and ensure that servicemembers, first responders, and families exposed to PFAS have the healthcare they need.

As the co-chair of the congressional PFAS Caucus, a bipartisan task force from States across the country, we worked successfully to include many PFAS provisions in both the House and Senate-passed bills.

Now it is critical that the final NDAA, which is being negotiated right now, include very strong PFAS provisions. This is what we need to do to protect public health.

#### HONORING CHANCELLOR CLIFTON GANUS

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Clif-

ton Ganus, Jr., who passed away earlier this month at the age of 97 after dedicating 73 years to his alma mater, Harding University, in Searcy, Arkansas.

Dr. Ganus began his journey at Harding College in 1939, majoring in Bible and history. Soon after graduating, he began teaching at Harding in 1946, ultimately chairing the History Department and serving as Dean.

In 1965, he was elected as Harding's third president, leading the then college to university status and significant growth. He served in this role for 22 years, becoming the university's first chancellor in 1987 and then chancellor emeritus in 2013.

Throughout this admirable life, Dr. Ganus traveled to 117 countries, was an Eagle Scout, and served on the Quapaw Area Council board. He was an active member in the Searcy Lions Club for 70 years and an elder at the College Church of Christ.

He was admired across our State, and I extend my prayers to his family and friends across our great State of Arkansas.

#### PFAS CONTAMINATION

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of thousands of families in my district that have been exposed to PFAS in their drinking water.

Last week, my friend Michael Hickey testified before the House on the prevalence of PFAS contamination in Hoosick Falls and in Petersburg, two communities in my district.

Hoosick Falls and Petersburg are not alone. Hundreds of communities across the country are dealing with PFAS contamination.

Here is what we know about these forever chemicals. PFAS contamination can cause autoimmune disorders, thyroid conditions or disorders, and cancer. It is time for action.

As a named conferee for the National Defense Authorization Act, I will forcefully advocate for pretreatment standards and that PFAS be designated a hazardous substance.

Too many families are living with the consequences of PFAS contamination in our Nation, and it is due in large part to our inaction.

#### HONORING DR. BRUCE STENDER

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Bruce Stender for his exceptional contributions to the State of Minnesota as an educator, businessman, and community leader.

From 1975 to 1981, Bruce worked as the first lay President of the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. At the time of his appointment, he was the youngest president of any Catholic college in the United States.

Following his tenure at St. Scholastica, Bruce joined Labovitz Enterprises, serving 25 years as president and CEO. His hard work and success eventually earned him title of Businessperson of the Year in 2005 from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, Labovitz School of Business and Economics.

Committed to the betterment of his community, Bruce has also served on a number of healthcare, business, and statewide boards.

Mr. Speaker, this next month, the College of St. Scholastica will publicly honor Bruce's illustrious career through the naming of the Stender School of Business and Technology. The naming of this department after Bruce will ensure generations to come will remember his service and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see Bruce receive this recognition, and cannot think of a better way to celebrate his life's work.

#### HONORING MAURICE FERRE

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

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend Maurice Ferre, who was considered the father of modern-day Miami. He passed away on Thursday at the age of 84.

Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Maurice championed the power of architectural beauty and cultural diversity to reshape a city.

He served Miami as mayor from 1973 to 1985 and succeeded in transforming the city into the commercial and cultural center we know today.

Mayor Ferre's vision of Miami as integrated and urban, international and ultramodern is woven into every inch of our community, from the high-rises in Brickell to the bayside park that bears his name.

He was a talented politician and innovative entrepreneur and a man of unparalleled class and elegance. He continued to advocate for our city and for the people of Puerto Rico until his last days.

His passion, wisdom, and loyalty to Miami will be missed but never forgotten. He was a true titan of public service. I am proud to have called him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts are with his wife, children, and grandchildren, and with all those in Miami who will miss this incredible man.

#### STUDENTS NEED MORE VIRTUAL APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight my bill, the Virtual Apprenticeship Tax Credit Act of 2019, which I introduced last week.

Despite booming economic growth as a result of the American Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, nearly 7 million jobs in America remain unfilled.

Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you how many employers from my district have struggled to find workers with the technical competencies to compete for in-demand, good-paying jobs.

So when it comes to workforce development, we need innovative ideas and partnerships between businesses and institutions of higher education. That is why I introduced the Virtual Apprenticeship Tax Credit Act of 2019, which offers a tax credit to employers who invest in the funding of virtual apprenticeship programs. It is my hope this will open more doors for students from all backgrounds.

When it comes to learning and workforce development, there shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all approach. Put simply, there needs to be more virtual apprenticeship opportunities for our students.

□ 1415

#### INCLUDE PFAS PROVISIONS IN NDAA

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support hundreds of communities across America, both rural and urban, that are being forced to endure PFAS contamination.

Every week, we learn more and more about the toxicity and ever-widening scope of this man-made crisis.

Not one but two PFAS sites have been discovered in my own district, the 13th Congressional District, first seeping from the sewers in Melvindale and then at the construction site of the Gordie Howe International Bridge in Detroit.

As a representative of people living in those areas, and from the State with the most PFAS sites in the country, it is my moral obligation to stand before you all today and say time is now for Congress to act. Include provisions to clean up contaminated sites, to stop PFAS from polluting our drinking water in the future, and to protect our servicemembers and first responders in the final NDAA that is on its way.

We have waited long enough to help families whose drinking water is at risk, who have been exposed to these toxic chemicals, and whose future is very much threatened.

#### INCENTIVIZE INNOVATION TO LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no doubt that Americans pay too much for healthcare. Seventy percent of Americans agree that low-

ering prescription drug costs should be a major priority for the legislature.

During August, I participated in a number of healthcare-related roundtables with medical professionals across Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District. Those healthcare professionals identified a number of ways to help lower prescription drug costs, including patent reform that would help get generics to market quickly and the need to incentivize innovation as a means to find more cures.

As such, I am disturbed that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have introduced a pricing bill that is merely for political talking points and, if enacted, would put this country on the road toward socialized medicine. Rather than incentivizing innovation and patent reform, Democrats have introduced a bill that would increase taxes and stifle innovation while raising drug prices, leading to fewer cures.

The American people have demanded action on lowering healthcare costs. But, Mr. Speaker, socialized medicine is not the answer. It is time to work together on real solutions in the free market to lower prescription drug costs and find cures for all Americans.

#### CONGRATULATING DIAMONDBACK TRUCK COVERS

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate DiamondBack Truck Covers, a truck bed cover company in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. DiamondBack was recently awarded the Small Business Administration's Pennsylvania Small Business of the Year Award.

I had the pleasure of traveling back to Philipsburg to present DiamondBack founders Ethan Wendle and Matthew Chverchko with a commendation for this award. Ethan and Matt were also recognized as the SBA Persons of the Year for Pennsylvania.

Ethan and Matt met at Pennsylvania State University. What started out as an engineering class project has turned into a flourishing business.

I am particularly proud that Ethan and Matt chose to plant roots in Philipsburg. This sort of commitment to our local communities is breathing new life into small town USA. It is companies like DiamondBack that are helping small towns bounce back.

The decision to manufacture, market, sell, and ship from Philipsburg is an investment in Pennsylvania's future, in local communities and businesses, and in the people who call the Commonwealth home.

#### SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY WEEK

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Clean Energy Week, an opportunity to celebrate bipartisan support for a wide variety of clean energy sources strengthening America's national security while also preserving our environment for future generations.

Environmental stewardship doesn't have to mean making economic sacrifices. Clean energy solutions and jobs are the future for the United States, with clean energy powering more homes and businesses than ever before.

The environment is, and should be, a bipartisan issue. That is why, this week, I am proud, with my friend Congressman LOWENTHAL from California, to offer a resolution in support of congressionally supporting the designation of Clean Energy Week.

I am proud that our effort has already gathered dozens of our colleagues, bipartisan, on both sides of the aisle. This goes to show that we can work across the aisle to be better stewards of this Earth. I plan to continue pursuit of these positive bipartisan solutions in the future.

#### 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 24, 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 24, 2019, at 11:33 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1340.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4285.

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 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1501

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### FIRST RESPONDERS PASSPORT ACT OF 2019

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2229) to waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2229

*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 “First Responders Passport Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. PASSPORTS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 1 of the Act of June 4, 1920 (22 U.S.C. 214; 41 Stat. 750; commonly referred to as the “Passport Act of 1920”), is amended, in the third sentence, by inserting after “to attend a funeral or memorial service for such member;” the following: “at the discretion of the Secretary, from an individual, including a volunteer, who is operating under a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with the United States Government to proceed abroad within the first seven days after a natural disaster to aid a foreign country suffering from such natural disaster;”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the end of the first full fiscal year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the number of waivers of fees for the execution and issuance of passports to first responders under section 1 of the Act of June 4, 1920, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, for such fiscal year.

#### SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H.R. 2229.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for his hard work on this legislation. This is a good bill that passed the House in the 114th Congress, and I am glad we are considering an updated version of it now.

USAID-supported search and rescue teams have played an essential role in the aftermath of many overseas natural disasters, including earthquakes in Nepal, Haiti, Japan, and New Zealand. Just this past month, search and rescue units from Virginia were deployed to the Bahamas to assist the victims of Hurricane Dorian.

These first responders provide specialized capabilities and demonstrate our commitment to international partners during their times of need. They put their lives on the line to help people around the world who are in need, and by doing so, they demonstrate the compassion of the American people.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of State, at their discretion, to waive passport fees for the brave Americans who mobilize quickly as part of a U.S. Government-supported team to help other countries when a natural disaster strikes.

This is a commonsense fix to help ensure the rapid deployment of Americans who risk life and limb to help other countries in their times of need. It is a good bill that I am proud to support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the First Responders Passport Act, and I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for introducing this bill.

Americans who answer the call to service in response to disasters abroad are some of the best that America has to offer. Often first on the scene when calamity strikes, our fire and rescue teams are the embodiment of the generosity of the American people. Their commitment and sacrifice earn immense goodwill toward our Nation.

This bill will help our first responders obtain the overseas travel documentation that they need in a quick and cost-effective way.

For these reasons, it deserves our unanimous support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the author of the First Responders Passport Act.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) for yielding, and I rise today

in support of H.R. 2229, the First Responders Passport Act, legislation I introduced along with Congressman BOYLE to exempt first responders operating on behalf of the U.S. Government from passport fees. This legislation is especially timely as we just witnessed Hurricane Dorian’s destruction in the Bahamas.

Currently, USAID contracts with first responders to deploy them abroad for natural disasters, like Hurricane Dorian. For example, every 5 years, USAID awards contracts to local fire departments that have highly trained, internationally certified urban search and rescue teams, allowing USAID to have these specialists on call. A team of these first responders deployed to the Bahamas as part of our recent relief efforts there.

To arrive at disaster zones in time, these teams are required to be able to deploy the day a disaster strikes. Consequently, they must maintain an active passport while they are under contract.

Unfortunately, volunteers or other members of these teams that are not deployed by a local or State government have to do so at their own expense, even though they could potentially be traveling on government business. My legislation allows the Secretary of State to waive passport fees for them and other similarly situated individuals.

Brave first responders sacrifice time away from their families to go to disaster zones on behalf of the U.S. Government and represent our Nation to people who have lost everything. As part of an official U.S. response, the Federal Government ought to cover the first responders’ costs.

That is why I am pleased that we have been able to work in a bipartisan manner, Democrats and Republicans working together to bring this legislation to the House floor, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I now turn to the BURMA Act, legislation that Chairman ENGEL and I introduced to sanction the Burmese military for its gross human rights violations against the Rohingya.

This legislation has already passed the House twice as part of this year’s and last year’s NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act. I am pleased that we can consider it by itself today.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, the Burmese military drove over 700,000 Rohingya, many of them children, out of Rakhine State and into Bangladesh. This brutal, systematic, premeditated campaign inflicted unspeakable horrors on the Rohingya, including barbaric killings, gang rapes, and the burning of hundreds and hundreds of villages.

As a clearer picture emerged over time, the mounting evidence led the

House to pass legislation that I authored to call these atrocities what they were—genocide.

It is extremely frustrating that, after 2 years, the Burmese military has faced very few consequences for these crimes.

That is why we must pass the BURMA Act today. It would provide needed tools to ensure greater accountability on the Burmese military for these atrocities.

Lastly, I would like to address any concern that if we, the United States, stand up for human rights in Asia, dictators will go scurrying, go running to China. This entirely misses the point.

Our competition with China is over whose values will shape the world. If we have to look the other way on genocide, China has already won.

It is well past time that the BURMA Act became law, either this version or the version that this House passed under the NDAA. Either version is very good.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support them, and we hope that it is done in a very timely manner. I support passage of this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, America's first responders represent to the world the humanity at the heart of our Nation.

I, again, thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for his expression of support for their overseas activities, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the First Responders Passport Act is a good measure that passed the House in the 114th Congress. I am glad we are considering it again today.

This is a straightforward and commonsense measure to make sure we can rapidly deploy American search and rescue teams to other countries when disaster strikes.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2229, 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.

#### SOUTHEAST ASIA STRATEGY ACT

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1632) to require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1632

*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 "Southeast Asia Strategy Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Southeast Asia is the fulcrum of the Indo-Pacific region, providing both a geographic and maritime link between East and South Asia.

(2) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a regional intergovernmental organization, remains central to the Indo-Pacific region's institutional architecture and to United States foreign policy toward the region.

(3) The United States has reaffirmed that the security and sovereignty of its Southeast Asian allies and partners, including a strong, independent ASEAN, remain vital to the security, prosperity, and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

(4) The United States has committed to continuing to deepen longstanding alliances and partnerships with a range of Southeast Asian nations, including by promoting our shared values, democracy, human rights, and civil society.

(5) Since the end of the Second World War, United States investments in strengthening alliances and partnerships with Southeast Asian nations have yielded tremendous returns for United States interests, as working with and through these alliances and partnerships have increased the region's capacity and capability to address common challenges.

(6) ASEAN member states are critical United States security partners in preventing violent extremism and protecting the freedom and openness of the maritime domain and in preventing the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction.

(7) ASEAN member states have contributed significantly to regional disaster monitoring and management and emergency response through initiatives such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, an inter-governmental organization that facilitates coordination and cooperation among ASEAN member states and international organizations in times of emergency.

(8) According to the 2018 ASEAN Business Outlook Survey, ASEAN member states are vital to the prosperity of the United States economy and exports to ASEAN economies support more than 500,000 jobs in the United States.

(9) The United States and ASEAN have recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of their ties and established a new strategic partnership that will enhance cooperation across the economic, political-security, and people-to-people pillars of the relationship.

#### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) deepen cooperation with ASEAN and ASEAN member states in the interest of promoting peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) affirm the importance of ASEAN centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving institutional architecture of the Indo-Pacific region; and

(3) establish and communicate a comprehensive strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region that articulates—

(A) the role and importance of Southeast Asia to the United States;

(B) the value of the United States-ASEAN relationship;

(C) the mutual interests of all parties;

(D) the concrete and material benefits all nations derive from strong United States engagement and leadership in Southeast Asia; and

(E) efforts to forge and maintain ASEAN consensus, especially on key issues of political and security concern to the region, such as the South China Sea.

#### SEC. 4. STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ASEAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as appropriate, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and ASEAN.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A statement of enduring United States interests in Southeast Asia and a description of efforts to bolster the effectiveness of ASEAN.

(2) A description of efforts to—

(A) deepen and expand Southeast Asian alliances, partnerships, and multilateral engagements, including efforts to expand broad based and inclusive economic growth, security ties, security cooperation and interoperability, economic connectivity, and expand opportunities for ASEAN to work with other like-minded partners in the region; and

(B) encourage like-minded partners outside of the Indo-Pacific region to engage with ASEAN.

(3) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to strengthen the United States partnership with Southeast Asian nations and ASEAN, including to promote broad based and inclusive economic growth, trade, investment, energy and efforts to combat climate change, public-private partnerships, physical and digital infrastructure development, education, disaster management, public health and economic and political diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

(4) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to enhance the capacity of Southeast Asian nations with respect to enforcing international law and multilateral sanctions, and initiatives to cooperate with ASEAN as an institution in these areas.

(5) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to promote human rights and democracy, to strengthen the rule of law, civil society, and transparent governance, and to protect the integrity of elections from outside influence.

(6) A summary of initiatives to promote security cooperation and security assistance within Southeast Asian nations, including—

(A) maritime security and maritime domain awareness initiatives for protecting the maritime commons and supporting international law and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea; and

(B) efforts to combat terrorism, human trafficking, piracy, and illegal fishing, and promote more open, reliable routes for sea lines of communication.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H.R. 1632.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for introducing this legislation.

Southeast Asian states and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, have been central to American policy in Asia for decades. They are key partners in advancing our interests in the Indo-Pacific.

But at this point, the Trump administration still hasn't put together a comprehensive strategy on how to strengthen our engagement with these countries. This legislation would require such a strategy.

It calls on the Secretary of State, working with the Secretaries of Defense and Commerce, to come up with a plan that will make sure the United States and our partners are working together on some of the most critical issues we are facing, from climate change and human rights to security cooperation, energy, and a growing global economy.

A multiyear strategy for our engagement with ASEAN and its member states will help us build partnerships in the region focused on short-term challenges, as well as longer term opportunities. Many Southeast Asian countries face the same global challenges that we do, like terrorism and human trafficking. The United States can and should be their preferred partner to address these issues.

This bill will help us take stock of our ongoing and planned efforts in these areas and determine what strategic personnel and funding resources are necessary to make these efforts successful.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, straightforward piece of legislation. I am glad the House is considering it today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Congresswoman WAGNER's Southeast Asia Strategy Act.

This bill will promote U.S. cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and establish a com-

prehensive interagency strategy for engagement in Southeast Asia.

ASEAN is the center of Asia's strategic and economic future and critical to the administration's Indo-Pacific strategy. Southeast Asia has been a critical global crossroads for hundreds of years, and it is growing even more important in the 21st century. Trillions in trade pass through regional searoutes, including vital energy supplies for U.S. allies and adversaries.

China's territorial aggression in the South China Sea and its predatory Belt and Road Initiative are central to the region's geopolitics. Southeast Asia's rising economies are becoming important drivers of regional growth as its developed economies begin to slow.

The Southeast Asia Strategy Act is a welcome step to ensure that this critical region receives the interagency focus that it deserves and that it requires.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the vice ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the author of the Southeast Asia Strategy Act.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. MCCAUL, for yielding to me and for his strong support on this piece of legislation, along with the chairman of the full committee, Mr. ENGEL, for bringing H.R. 1632, the Southeast Asia Strategy Act, to a vote.

I also thank Congressman CASTRO for his persistent support of U.S.-ASEAN relations, and I urge my colleagues to join us in passing this important, straightforward, and commonsense piece of legislation.

Southeast Asia is of deep strategic and economic importance to the United States, and its global influence is, in fact, growing.

In 2015, the United States and ASEAN elevated our relationship into a strategic partnership. To fully realize this partnership, the U.S. needs a proactive, coherent regional strategy that addresses all aspects of the relationship, from trade and humanitarian goals to diplomatic and security arrangements.

The Southeast Asia Strategy Act ensures that it is the policy of the United States to coordinate with ASEAN and its member states in the interest of promoting peace, security, and stability.

The legislation instructs the Secretary of State to develop a comprehensive strategy for engagement with the region, including information on alliances and partnerships, investment, development, security cooperation, energy security, human rights, and capacity building on enforcing

international law and sanctions and creating more open, reliable routes for trade.

I have had many opportunities to meet with ASEAN officials and foreign ministers, and one message I hear repeatedly is that the United States must demonstrate strength and leadership.

Congress should listen closely to our allies demanding stronger leadership, and not just because China would be sure to fill any vacuum in power.

ASEAN is a powerhouse and an end in itself, and this bill will ensure that U.S.-ASEAN engagement becomes ever more fruitful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Southeast Asia Strategy Act.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Congresswoman WAGNER, the vice ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for introducing the Southeast Asia Strategy Act.

The administration's national security strategy has recommitted the United States to great power competition, and the People's Republic of China is our primary strategic competitor.

The Indo-Pacific region is at the center of this competition, and Southeast Asia is at the center of the Indo-Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank my colleagues who have taken part in this debate. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and the ranking member, Mr. MCCAUL, for their leadership in this area.

I want to just close by being clear with ourselves as a Congress, as the United States of America. If we are not engaged in the Indo-Pacific region, if we are not building bridges of friendship and cooperation, if we are not bringing American leadership and American values to this critical part of the world, who is going to fill the void? The answer is easy. It is China.

We can't be muddling our way through when it comes to our policy. We need a smart, proactive approach that meets current challenges and builds the framework for successful, long-term engagement.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will help us meet those goals. I am pleased to support it. I urge all Members to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1632, 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.

#### BURMA POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2327) to direct the Secretary of State to provide assistance to civil society organizations in Burma that work to secure the release of prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in Burma, and assistance to current and former prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in Burma, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2327

*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 “Burma Political Prisoners Assistance Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD) pledged that they “would not arrest anyone as political prisoners”, but have failed to fulfill this promise since they took control of Burma’s Union Parliament and the Government’s executive branch in April 2016.

(2) As of the end of April 2019, there were 331 political prisoners in Burma, 48 of them serving sentences, 90 awaiting trial inside prison, and 193 awaiting trial outside prison, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners in Burma.

(3) During its three years in power, the NLD Government has provided pardons for Burma’s political prisoners on six occasions. State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi took steps to secure the release of nearly 235 political prisoners in April 2016. On May 23, 2017, former President Htin Kyaw granted pardons to 259 prisoners, including 89 political prisoners. On April 17, 2018, current President Win Myint pardoned 8,541 prisoners, including 36 political prisoners. In April and May 2019, he pardoned more than 23,000 prisoners, including 20 political prisoners.

(4) The Burmese security forces have used colonial-era laws to arrest and charge political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. These laws include but are not limited to provisions of the Penal Code, the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act, the 1908 Unlawful Associations Act, the 2013 Telecommunications Act, and the 1923 Official Secrets Act.

(5) On December 12, 2017, Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested and charged with violating the Official Secrets Act, continuing a trend of restricting media and free speech and attempting to thwart coverage of the events in Rakhine State.

(6) On September 3, 2018, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were convicted and sentenced to seven years in prison. Time Magazine included pictures of the two reporters on the cover of its “Person of the Year” issue on December 10, 2018, as two of the “Guardians and the War on Truth”.

(7) On May 6, 2019, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were released after more than 500 days behind bars.

(8) According to Burmese free speech organization Athan, 44 journalists and 142 activists since 2016 were charged with colonial-era laws used to stifle dissent and restrict activist groups and have faced trial.

(9) Since December 2018, three Kachin activists were sentenced to six months in prison in connection with peaceful antiwar protests; a protester demonstrating against the Myitsone Dam (a controversial Chinese-backed hydropower project) was charged for peaceful demonstrations, and police used excessive force to crack down on peaceful protesters in Kayah State, with some of the demonstrators charged under vaguely worded, repressive laws.

(10) On August 18, 2017, Aung Ko Htwe was arrested because he gave a media interview in which he described his experience as a child soldier, including how the Burmese military abducted and forcibly recruited him when he was 13 years old. He was charged under Section 505(b) of Burma’s Penal Code.

(11) Although former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson took Burma off the State Department’s list of the worst offenders in the use of child soldiers in 2017, the Department reinstated Burma to the list in 2018. According to the United Nations, the Burmese military and ethnic guerrilla groups remain “persistent perpetrators” in the recruitment and use of children in [Burma].”

#### SEC. 3. CHILD SOLDIERS.

It is the sense of Congress that no one should be jailed for freely expressing him or herself or for speaking against the use of child soldiers.

#### SEC. 4. PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY.

It is the sense of Congress that Burma must immediately drop defamation charges against the three Kachin activists, Lum Zawng, Nang Pu, and Zau Jet, who led a peaceful rally in Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State in April 2018, and that the prosecution of Lum Zawng, Nang Pu, and Zau Jet is an attempt by the Burmese authorities to intimidate, harass, and silence community leaders and human rights defenders who speak out about military abuses and the impact on civilian populations.

#### SEC. 5. PRESS FREEDOM.

It is the sense of Congress that press freedom is a fundamental human right and should be upheld and protected in Burma and everywhere, and that Burmese authorities must immediately cease the arbitrary arrest, detention, imprisonment, and physical attacks of journalists, which have created a climate of fear and self-censorship among local journalists.

#### SEC. 6. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) all prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in Burma should be unconditionally and immediately released;

(2) the Administration and the Department of State should use all of their diplomatic tools to ensure that all prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in Burma are released; and

(3) the Burmese Government should repeal or amend all laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, or association, and ensure that laws such as the Telecommunications Law of 2013 and the Unlawful Associations Act of 1908, and laws relating to the right to peaceful assembly, all comply with international human rights standards.

#### SEC. 7. POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSISTANCE.

The Secretary of State shall continue to provide assistance to civil society organizations in Burma that work to secure the release of prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in Burma, and assistance to current and former prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in Burma. Such assistance may include the following:

(1) Support for the documentation of human rights violations with respect to prisoners of conscience and political prisoners.

(2) Support for advocacy in Burma to raise awareness of issues relating to prisoners of conscience and political prisoners.

(3) Support for efforts to repeal or amend laws that are used to imprison individuals as either prisoners of conscience or political prisoners.

(4) Support for health, including mental health, and post-incarceration assistance in gaining access to education and employment opportunities or other forms of reparation to enable former prisoners of conscience and political prisoners to resume a normal life.

(5) The creation, in consultation with former political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, their families, and representatives, of an independent prisoner review mechanism in Burma to review the cases of individuals who may have been charged or deprived of their liberty for peacefully exercising their human rights, review all laws used to arrest, prosecute, and punish individuals as political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and provide recommendations to the Burmese Government for the repeal or amendment of all such laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H.R. 2327.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, the Burma Political Prisoners Assistance Act.

Next week, I will travel to Bangladesh, where I am going to spend time in Cox’s Bazar, the site of the world’s largest refugee settlement. Since August of 2017, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees have fled to Cox’s Bazar from Burma, where villages were burned to the ground, women and girls were raped, and many were massacred at the hands of Burmese security forces as part of a campaign that can only be described as genocide.

When I come home to the United States, I plan to speak openly and honestly about what I saw and share the stories of Rohingya refugees I talk to. And, while I don’t expect everyone to like what I have to say, I know that, here in America, I won’t be persecuted for exercising my right to free speech and sharing an honest account of the atrocities so many have experienced in Burma.

But, if Burma was my home country, I would not be able to rest so easy, no matter my ethnic group or religion. That is because colonial-era laws are used to stifle dissent and imprison people who dare to speak out or work to protect human rights.

Take the example of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, Reuters journalists who were arrested while investigating a massacre of Rohingya men and boys and spent more than 500 days in prison before being released after massive international pressure earlier this year; or, Aung Ko Htwe, a former child soldier who gave an interview talking about his experience being abducted and forcibly recruited by the Burmese military when he was just 13 years old. For that offense, he was imprisoned for 2 years and just released earlier this month.

Were it not for incredibly brave people like Wa Lone, Kyaw Soe Oo, and Aung Ko Htwe, the world might not know about the horrors that have occurred in Burma.

Journalists, activists, and anyone who is willing to use their voice to call out wrongdoing must be protected. That is why Congresswoman ANN WAGNER and I introduced the Burma Political Prisoners Assistance Act.

This bill calls for the release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Burma and directs our State Department to bolster its work to achieve these ends.

We need to support efforts to amend or repeal the unjust laws that are being used to stifle free expression and honest reporting. We should support the creation of an independent prisoner review mechanism to examine cases like the ones I just mentioned and offer recommendations as to how the law might better protect free expression. And we must aid the organizations that are working to secure the release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Burma Political Prisoners Assistance Act, introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

True to our founding ideals, the United States must continue to stand as a beacon of hope and freedom in the world. This includes voicing our support for political prisoners who are in chains only because of their peaceful dissent.

Although recent years have seen elections in Burma, the human rights situation there still remains grave.

Burma's brutal military remains constitutionally immune from civilian oversight or control. It still has not been held responsible for the unspeakable, bloody genocide against Burma's Rohingya population 2 years ago, which displaced hundreds of thousands of people in Bangladesh and India.

Criticizing the government remains a dangerous business in Burma. A lot of things can get you thrown into jail, or worse: honest reporting about military

violence against ethnic minorities, telling the truth about the use of child soldiers, or expressing political dissent, among other things.

As a result, there are hundreds of prisoners of conscience in Burma. All people deserve fundamental rights of speech and political expression and to be free from arbitrary imprisonment.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am pleased to support this bipartisan bill before us today. The brutal Burmese military continues to exercise outsized influence over the government in that country and tramples the rights of many who dare to dissent. True to American ideals, this measure expresses our solidarity and concern for political prisoners in Burma and, really, throughout the world, and it deserves our full support.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Mr. LEVIN, for his strong, bipartisan support for this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I am so happy that, between the day we introduced this legislation and today, Wa Lone, Kyaw Soe Oo, and Aung Ko Htwe were released, but there are so many other people like them whose names we do not know but to whom we owe tremendous gratitude for their bravery.

For the courageous people of Burma who have raised their voices to insist on accountability, to demand reform and bring justice to light, I hope this legislation helps to bring about the change they so richly deserve.

I want to thank Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for her partnership on this bill and for all her work to protect human rights in Southeast Asia. I hope this bill is the first of many we work on together.

And I thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member McCAUL for prioritizing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3227, 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.

#### BURMA UNIFIED THROUGH RIGOROUS MILITARY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3190) to authorize humanitarian assistance and impose sanctions with respect to human rights

abuses in Burma, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3190

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability Act of 2019” or the “BURMA Act of 2019”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Findings.

#### TITLE I—MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONFLICT IN BURMA

Sec. 101. Statement of policy.

Sec. 102. Sense of Congress with respect to humanitarian assistance, freedom of movement, and rights of returnees.

Sec. 103. Sense of Congress on freedoms of press and association.

Sec. 104. Imposition of sanctions for the violation of human rights.

#### TITLE II—ASSISTANCE AND SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO BURMA

Sec. 201. Authorization to provide humanitarian assistance.

Sec. 202. Imposition of sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma.

#### TITLE III—GOVERNANCE OF THE BURMESE MINING AND GEMSTONE SECTORS

Sec. 301. Sense of Congress on the mining sector of Burma.

Sec. 302. Guidance relating to responsibility and transparency in the mining sector of Burma.

#### TITLE IV—ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Sec. 401. Report on accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Burma.

Sec. 402. Authorization to provide technical assistance for efforts against human rights abuses.

Sec. 403. Strategy for promoting economic development in Burma.

#### TITLE V—DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS

Sec. 501. Determination of budgetary effects.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(2) CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.—The term “crimes against humanity” includes, when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack—

(A) murder;

(B) deportation or forcible transfer of population;

(C) torture;

(D) extermination;

(E) enslavement;

(F) rape, sexual slavery, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable severity;

(G) persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law; and

(H) enforced disappearance of persons.

(3) **GENOCIDE.**—The term “genocide” means any offense described in section 1091(a) of title 18, United States Code.

(4) **TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE.**—The term “transitional justice” means the range of judicial, nonjudicial, formal, informal, retributive, and restorative measures employed by countries transitioning out of armed conflict or repressive regimes to redress legacies of atrocities and to promote long-term, sustainable peace.

(5) **WAR CRIME.**—The term “war crime” has the meaning given the term in section 2441(c) of title 18, United States Code.

### SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On August 25, 2017, Burmese military and security forces violently and disproportionately responded to an attack on security outposts, resulting in a mass exodus of Rohingya from the Rakhine State of Burma into Bangladesh, which the International Organization of Migration called “unprecedented in terms of volume and speed”.

(2) Between August 2017 and March 2019, in response to the violence perpetrated by the Burmese military and security forces, the United Nations estimates more than 740,000 Rohingya, approximately 75 percent of whom are women and children, have fled to Bangladesh, fearing loss of life, livelihoods, and shelter. Rohingya have continued to flee Burma in significant numbers, including in 2019. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 1,400 Rohingya have arrived in Bangladesh since January 1, 2019.

(3) Even after the Burmese military scaled back attacks against Rohingya in late 2017, security forces continued to impose restrictions on the basic freedoms of Rohingya in Rakhine State, including on freedom of movement. In November 2017, Amnesty International determined that Rohingya remaining in Rakhine are “trapped in a vicious system of state-sponsored, institutionalized discrimination that amounts to apartheid”.

(4) Despite the steps taken toward democracy in Burma, there exists limited control by the civilian government over civilian agencies as well as military and security forces that carried out the violence in Rakhine State. The military and security forces continue to engage in grave human rights abuses against ethnic minorities throughout in the country.

(5) Both government- and military-initiated investigations into human rights abuses in Burma involving violence between ethnic minorities and Burmese security forces have failed to yield credible results or hold perpetrators accountable.

(6) In a public address on October 12, 2017, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi laid out the following goals for the State of Rakhine:

(A) Repatriation of those who have crossed over to Bangladesh.

(B) Effective provision of humanitarian assistance.

(C) Resettlement of displaced populations.

(D) Economic development and durable peace.

(7) Due to restrictions enforced by the Rakhine State government and the national military and security forces, there has been little progress made since that time and limited ability for the international community to support, verify, or evaluate the Government of Burma's efforts. There are also credible reports of Burmese military and secu-

rity forces bulldozing numerous villages where violence occurred, thus destroying physical evidence, and in some cases, constructing new military installations on top of the bulldozed villages.

(8) On November 22, 2017, former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson stated that “After a careful and thorough analysis of available facts, it is clear that the situation in northern Rakhine state constitutes ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya. Those responsible for these atrocities must be held accountable”. He also said the violence “has a number of characteristics of certainly crimes against humanity”. Despite repeated requests from Members of Congress, as well as the result of its own investigation (the executive summary of which was released on September 17, 2018), the Department has declined to make a determination if the atrocities in Rakhine State constitute genocide or crimes against humanity.

(9) On December 12, 2017, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, two Reuters reporters covering the crisis in Rakhine State, were entrapped, arrested, and charged with violating the Official Secrets Act, continuing a trend of restricting media and free speech and attempting to thwart coverage of the events in Rakhine State.

(10) Another barrier to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of the Rohingya to Rakhine State is the refusal of the Government of Burma to reinstate the full citizenship of the Rohingya, as well as the Government's unwillingness to consider the repeal of or amendments to the Citizenship Act of 1982 that stripped the Rohingya of their full citizenship.

(11) During 2018, the ongoing conflict in Burma escalated in Kachin and Shan States, reignited in Karen (Kayin) State, and spread into Chin and Rakhine States. Along with the increase in fighting between Burma's security forces and several ethnic armed organizations, there was a rise in allegations of human rights abuses perpetrated by Burmese security forces in these conflict areas.

(12) In April 2018, thousands of civilians fled fighting between the military and ethnic armed groups in Kachin State, prompting peaceful demonstrations. In December 2018, three prominent activist in Kachin State, Lum Zawng, Nang Pu and Zau Jet were convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment for defaming the military.

(13) On June 6, 2018, the United Nations Refugee Agency and the United Nations Development Programme signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with Burma. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and various international human rights and international relief agencies agreed that conditions in Rakhine State are not sufficient for the voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable return of the Rohingya.

(14) The United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, the Department of State, and more than a dozen human rights organizations have reported and documented a campaign of violence perpetrated by the security forces of Burma, which indiscriminately fired on and killed civilians, raped women and girls, and arrested Rohingya men without any cause or charges. Satellite images obtained by Amnesty International reveal that, out of the approximately 470 villages in northern Rakhine State, nearly 300 were partially or completely destroyed by fire since August 25, 2017, most of which were completely or partially populated by Rohingya Muslims.

(15) In its report of September 17, 2018, the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar determined that there was sufficient evidence of “genocidal intent” in the attacks against

the Rohingya in Rakhine State, and probable “crimes against humanity” and “war crimes” in Burmese security forces assaults on ethnic minorities in Kachin and Shan States. The Mission recommended that the United Nations Security Council “should ensure accountability for crimes under international law committed in Myanmar, preferably by referring the situation to the International Criminal Court or alternatively by creating an ad hoc international criminal tribunal”. The Mission also recommended the imposition of targeted economic sanctions, including an arms embargo on Burma.

(16) On September 3, 2018, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were convicted and sentenced to seven years in prison and released as an act of Presidential amnesty on May 6, 2019, after over 500 days in jail. Time Magazine included pictures the two reporters on the cover of its “Person of the Year” issue on December 10, 2018, as two of the “Guardians and the War on Truth”.

(17) According to the free-speech organization Athan, 44 journalists and 142 activists have faced trial since 2016 charged with colonial-era laws used to stifle dissent, while tightening restrictions on activist groups.

(18) On September 28, 2018, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution that calls for an independent mechanism to collect and analyze evidence in regard to the serious international crimes committed in Burma against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities since 2011. The resolution requests that the independent mechanism “prepare files in order to facilitate and expedite fair and independent criminal proceedings, in accordance with international law standards, in national, regional or international courts or tribunals that have or may in the future have jurisdiction over these crimes”.

(19) On November 15, 2018, the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Burma abandoned plans to return more than 2,000 Rohingya to Rakhine State after it was determined that none were willing to voluntarily return given the current conditions in Rakhine State, as well as the Government of Burma's failure to ensure the returnees' safety, dignity, or sustainability of their livelihoods.

(20) A December 2018 report by the Public Law Interest & Policy group noted that “the destruction of their villages, crops, and virtually all infrastructure clearly points to a strategy of ensuring the Rohingya's permanent removal. The mass killings and accompanying brutality, including against children, women, pregnant women, the elderly, and those crossing the border to Bangladesh further suggest, however, that, at least in the minds of some perpetrators, the goal was not only to expel, but also to exterminate the Rohingya . . .” and that “there are reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes have been committed against the Rohingya in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State”.

(21) Despite substantial evidence of widespread and systematic atrocities committed by Burmese security forces in Rakhine State, State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma's Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing continue to maintain that no such widespread and systematic atrocities occurred.

(22) On December 13, 2018, the United States House of Representatives passed House Resolution 1091 (115th Congress) which expressed the sense of the House that “the atrocities committed against the Rohingya by the Burmese military and security forces since August 2017 constitute crimes against humanity and genocide” and called upon the

Secretary of State to review the available evidence and make a similar determination.

(23) On December 19, 2018, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator requested \$202,000,000 for the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan for Burma.

(24) The 2019 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis asks the international community to provide \$20,500,000 in assistance to meet needs in Bangladesh.

(25) On May 14, 2019, the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar urged all countries to cut off economic ties to Burma's military-owned businesses, stating “. . . due to the gravity of past and continuing violations, attention must be given to the political, economic and financial ties of the Myanmar military . . . so we can cut off the money supply as a means of increasing pressure and reducing the violence.”.

#### TITLE I—MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONFLICT IN BURMA

##### SEC. 101. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States as follows:

(1) To support a complete transition to democracy and genuine national reconciliation in Burma, including accountability for the atrocities committed by the Burmese military against the Rohingya population and other ethnic minorities throughout the country.

(2) To pursue a United States strategy of calibrated engagement, which is essential to support the establishment of a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Burma that includes respect for the human rights of all its people regardless of ethnicity and religion.

(3) To ensure that the guiding principles of such a strategy include—

(A) supporting legal reforms, removing remaining restrictions on civil and political rights, and ensuring civilian governance, including reforms to the current constitutional provision reserving 25 percent of parliamentary seats for appointments by the military, which provides the military with veto power over constitutional amendments;

(B) establishing a fully democratic, pluralistic, and representative political system that includes free, fair, and democratic elections in which all people of Burma can vote;

(C) promoting national reconciliation and the conclusion of a nationwide cease-fire agreement, including the development of a political system that is inclusive of ethnic Rohingya, Shan, Kachin, Chin, Karen, and other ethnic groups, measures to address natural resource governance, revenue-sharing, land rights, and constitutional change enabling inclusive peace;

(D) ensuring accountability through independent international investigations of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, including sexual and gender-based violence, perpetrated against the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities by the military and security forces of Burma, violent extremist groups and other combatants involved in the conflict;

(E) strengthening Burma's civilian governmental institutions, including support for greater transparency and accountability;

(F) encouraging the establishment of professional military, security, and police forces that operate under civilian control and are held accountable for human rights abuses, corruption, or other abuses of power;

(G) combating corruption and illegal economic activity, including that which involves the military and its close allies;

(H) empowering local communities, civil society, and independent media;

(I) encouraging the provision of full citizenship for the Rohingya population in

Burma, as well as durable solutions for those displaced in Bangladesh;

(J) promoting responsible international and regional engagement;

(K) strengthening respect for and protection of human rights and religious freedom; and

(L) promoting broad-based, inclusive economic development and fostering healthy and resilient communities.

##### SEC. 102. SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, AND RIGHTS OF RETURNEES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) significant and sustained international funding, from both public and private sources, is necessary to address the medium- and long-term impacts of the crisis in Burma and the impact of the crisis on Bangladesh; and

(2) the United States should make resolving the Rohingya crisis one of its top priorities in its engagement with regional institutions, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

(b) RESTORATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN RAKHINE STATE.—Congress calls on the Government of Burma, including the Burmese military and security forces, to ensure full and secure humanitarian access to the State of Rakhine and to cooperate with the ongoing international mechanism set up by the United Nations Human Rights Council in September 2018 and funded by the United Nations General Assembly to gather evidence and other information pertaining to allegations of crimes against humanity and genocide committed in Burma.

(c) RIGHTS OF REFUGEES, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, AND RETURNEES.—

(1) BURMA.—Congress calls on the Government of Burma to—

(A) ensure that Rohingya in Burma have freedom of movement;

(B) create conditions for return of those displaced from their homes and implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, which includes full and equal citizenship;

(C) work closely with the international community, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to ensure the dignified, safe, sustainable and voluntary return of all those displaced from their homes, especially from Rakhine State, without an unduly high burden of proof; and

(D) offer compensation or restitution to those refugees who do not want to return to their homes.

(2) BANGLADESH.—Congress calls on the Government of Bangladesh to—

(A) ensure that the rights of refugees are protected, including through allowing them to build more permanent shelters, and ensuring equal access to healthcare, basic services, education and work;

(B) work closely with the international community, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to ensure that any repatriation or resettlement of refugees be dignified, safe, sustainable and voluntary; and

(C) ensure that any relocation or local integration of refugees in Bangladesh be consistent with international humanitarian principles, including freedom of movement, and implemented only through voluntary, fully informed consent.

##### SEC. 103. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FREEDOMS OF PRESS AND ASSOCIATION.

It is the sense of Congress that, in order to promote the freedom of the press and speech, the Government of Burma should undertake serious legal reforms including reform of the Official Secrets Act, 1923, the Unlawful Association Act, 1908, and the Penal Code.

##### SEC. 104. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS FOR THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

The President shall impose sanctions—

(1) against officials in Burma, including Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Myanmar Min Aung Hlaing, under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note); and

(2) against military-owned enterprises, including the Myanmar Economic Corporation and Union of Myanmar Economic Holding, under the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE (Junta's Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2008 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), and other relevant statutory authorities.

#### TITLE II—ASSISTANCE AND SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO BURMA

##### SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$220,500,000 for fiscal year 2020 to provide humanitarian assistance for Burma, Bangladesh, and the surrounding region, including for the following purposes:

(1) Assisting the victims of the Burmese military's crimes against humanity targeting Rohingya and other ethnic minorities in Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan States, including those displaced in Burma, Bangladesh, Thailand, and the surrounding region.

(2) Supporting voluntary resettlement or repatriation of such displaced persons in Burma, upon the conclusion of genuine agreements developed and negotiated with the involvement and consultation of such displaced persons.

(3) Assistance to promote ethnic and religious tolerance, combat gender-based violence, and support victims of violence and destruction in Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan States.

(4) Supporting programs to investigate and document allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed in Burma, including gender-based violence.

(5) Supporting access to education for children currently living in refugee camps in the surrounding region, and access to higher education in Bangladesh.

(6) Assisting minority ethnic groups and civil society in Burma to help sustain cease-fire agreements and further prospects for reconciliation and sustainable peace.

(7) Promoting ethnic minority inclusion and participation in Burma's political processes.

##### SEC. 202. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN BURMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the 8-year period beginning on the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to each foreign person that the President determines, based on credible evidence—

(1) is a current or former senior official of the military or security forces of Burma who—

(A) knowingly perpetrated, ordered, or otherwise directed serious human rights abuses in Burma; or

(B) has taken significant steps to impede investigations or prosecutions of alleged serious human rights abuses, including against the Rohingya community in Rakhine State;

(2) is an entity owned or controlled by any person described in paragraph (1);

(3) is an entity, such as the Myanmar Economic Cooperation or the Myanmar Economic Holding Corporation, that is owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the

military or security forces of Burma, including through collective or cooperative structures, from which one or more persons described in paragraph (1) derive significant revenue or financial benefit; or

(4) has knowingly—

(A) provided significant financial, material, or technological support—

(i) to a foreign person described in paragraph (1) in furtherance of any of the acts described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of such paragraph; or

(ii) to any entity owned or controlled by such person or an immediate family member of such person; or

(B) received significant financial, material, or technological support from a foreign person described in paragraph (1) or an entity owned or controlled by such person or an immediate family member of such person.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED; EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) SANCTIONS.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the exercise of all powers granted to the President by such Act to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person the President determines meets one or more of the criteria described in subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) ALIENS INADMISSIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person described in subsection (a) is—

(I) inadmissible to the United States; or

(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—A foreign person described in subsection (a) is subject to the following:

(I) Revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(II) A revocation under subclause (I) shall—

(aa) take effect immediately; and

(bb) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person's possession.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) PENALTIES.—Any person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out subsection (b) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-

gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section and shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

(e) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this Act shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(f) WAIVER.—The President may annually waive the application of sanctions imposed on a foreign person pursuant to subsection (a) if the President—

(1) determines that a waiver with respect to such foreign person is in the national interest of the United States; and

(2) not later than the date on which such waiver will take effect, submits to the following committees notice of and justification for such waiver:

(A) The Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(B) The Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1001).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means a person that is not a United States person.

(3) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly” means, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States, or any other individual subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such entity.

### TITLE III—GOVERNANCE OF THE BURMESE MINING AND GEMSTONE SECTORS

#### SEC. 301. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE MINING SECTOR OF BURMA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2015, the nongovernmental organization Global Witness estimated that the value of total production of jade in Burma in 2014 was \$31,000,000,000, almost 48 percent of the official gross domestic product of Burma. As much as 80 percent of that jade sold is smuggled out of Burma.

(2) Burma's military and associated entities, including companies owned or controlled by Myanmar Economic Corporation and Myanmar Economic Holding Limited, their affiliated companies, and companies owned or controlled by current and former senior military officers or their family members, are linked to the mining sector, including the gemstone industry, and benefit financially from widespread illegal smuggling of jade and rubies from Burma.

(3) Illegal trafficking in precious and semiprecious stones from Burma, including

the trade in high-value jade and rubies, deprives the people of Burma and the civilian government of critical revenue and instead benefits military-linked entities, non-state armed groups, and transnational organized criminal networks.

(4) In 2016, the Government of Burma began to take steps to reform aspects of the mining sector, including—

(A) improving governance in the gemstone industry, by temporarily suspending the issuance or renewal of jade and gemstone mining permits;

(B) commissioning an environmental management plan for some mining areas; and

(C) establishing the multi-stakeholder Jade and Gemstone Support Committee under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation to develop recommendations for a new industry-wide policy and limited gemstone payment disclosures under the Myanmar Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative.

(5) In January 2019, the Government of Burma adopted a new Gemstone Law that does not adequately address corruption and tax avoidance, conflicts of interest, or the factors fueling conflict in Kachin State and other gemstone mining areas.

(6) The lifting in October 2016 of United States sanctions on the importation of jade and jadeite and rubies from Burma allowed such gemstones to legally enter the United States market, but some retailers have refrained from sourcing gemstones of Burmese origin due to governance and reputational concerns.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) notwithstanding Burma's “Trafficking in Persons” ranking, the President should continue to provide assistance to Burma, pursuant to the waiver authority under section 110(d)(4) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(4)), in order to re-engage with the Government of Burma with respect to the mining sector and should make available technical, capacity-building and other assistance through the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development to support the Government of Burma in efforts to reform the gemstone industry; and

(2) companies that seek to import to the United States gemstones or minerals that may be of Burmese origin or articles of jewelry containing such gemstones should—

(A) obtain such materials exclusively from entities that satisfy the transparency criteria described in section 302(b)(2) or from third parties that can demonstrate that they sourced the materials from entities that meet such criteria; and

(B) undertake robust due diligence procedures in line with the “Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct” and “Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas” promulgated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

#### SEC. 302. GUIDANCE RELATING TO RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE MINING SECTOR OF BURMA.

(a) LIST OF PARTICIPATING WHITE-LIST ENTITIES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date described in subsection (e), the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, and publish on a publicly available website, a list of each entity described in subsection (b)(1) that—

(1) participates in Burma's mining sector;

(2) publicly discloses beneficial ownership, as such term is defined for purposes of the Myanmar Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (“Myanmar EITI”);

(3) is not owned or controlled, either directly or indirectly, by the Burmese military or security forces, any current or former senior Burmese military officer, or any person sanctioned by the United States pursuant to any relevant sanctions authority; and

(4) is making significant progress toward meeting the criteria described in subsection (b)(2).

(b) ENTITIES AND CRITERIA DESCRIBED.—

(1) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—The entities described in this subsection are the following:

(A) Entities that produce or process precious and semiprecious gemstones.

(B) Entities that sell or export precious and semiprecious gemstones from Burma or articles of jewelry containing such gemstones.

(2) CRITERIA DESCRIBED.—The criteria described in this subsection are the following:

(A) The entity publicly discloses any politically exposed persons, officers, directors or beneficial owners, as defined under the Myanmar EITI.

(B) The entity publicly discloses valid authorization, license, or permit to produce, process, sell, or export minerals or gemstones, as applicable.

(C) The entity publicly discloses payments to the Government of Burma, including tax and non-tax, license, or royalty payments, and other payments or contract terms as may be required under Myanmar EITI standards.

(D) The entity undertakes due diligence, in line with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, including public reporting.

(c) PERIODIC UPDATING.—The Secretary shall periodically update the publicly available version of the list described in subsection (a) as appropriate.

(d) GUIDANCE AND WHITE-LIST ENTITIES.—The Secretary shall issue guidance for entities in the United States private sector with respect to the best practices for supply-chain due diligence that are applicable to importation of gemstones or minerals that may be of Burmese origin or articles of jewelry containing such gemstones, including with respect to transactions with entities approved for inclusion in the list published pursuant to subsection (a), in order to mitigate potential risks and legal liabilities associated with the importation of such items.

(e) TERMINATION.—The date described in this section is the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Burma has taken substantial measures to reform the mining sector in Burma, including the following:

(1) Require the mandatory disclosure of payments, permit and license allocations, project revenues, contracts, and beneficial ownership, including the identification any politically exposed persons who are beneficial owners, consistent with the approach agreed under the Myanmar EITI and with due regard for civil society participation.

(2) Separate the commercial, regulatory, and revenue collection responsibilities within the Myanmar Gems Enterprise and other key state-owned enterprises to remove existing conflicts of interest.

(3) Monitor and undertake enforcement actions, as warranted, to ensure that entities—

(A) adhere to environmental and social impact assessment and management standards in accordance with international responsible mining practices, the country's environmental conservation law, and other applicable laws and regulations; and

(B) uphold occupational health and safety standards and codes of conduct that are aligned with the core labor standards of the

International Labour Organisation and with domestic law.

(4) Address the transparent and fair distribution of benefits from natural resources, including through local benefit-sharing.

(5) Reform the process for valuation of gemstones at the mine-site, including developing an independent valuation system to prevent undervaluation and tax evasion.

(6) Require companies bidding for jade and ruby mining, finishing, or export permits to be independently audited upon the request of the Government of Burma and making the results of all such audits public.

(7) Establish credible and transparent procedures for permit allocations that are independent from external influence, including scrutiny of applicants that prevents unscrupulous entities from gaining access to concessions or the right to trade in minerals or gemstones.

(8) Establish effective oversight of state-owned enterprises operating in such sector, including through parliamentary oversight or requirements for independent financial auditing.

#### TITLE IV—ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

##### SEC. 401. REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND GENOCIDE IN BURMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) summarizes credible reports of serious human rights violations, including war crimes, committed against the Rohingya or other ethnic minorities in Burma between 2012 and the date of the submission of the report;

(2) describes any potential transitional justice mechanisms in Burma;

(3) provides an analysis of whether the serious human rights violations summarized pursuant to paragraph (1) amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide; and

(4) includes a determination of the Secretary whether—

(A) the events that took place in the state of Rakhine in Burma, starting on August 25, 2017, constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide; or

(B) the situation faced by the Rohingya in Rakhine State, between 2012 and the date of the submission of the report, amounts to or has amounted to the crime of apartheid.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall also include each of the following:

(1) A description of—

(A) each incident for which there is credible evidence that the incident may constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide committed by the Burmese military or security forces against the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities, including the identities of any other actors involved in such incident;

(B) the role of the civilian government in the commission of any such incidents;

(C) each incident for which there is credible evidence that the incident may constitute war crime, crimes against humanity, or genocide committed by violent extremist groups in Burma;

(D) each attack on health workers, health facilities, health transport, or patients and, to the extent possible, the identities of any individuals who engaged in or organized such incidents in Burma; and

(E) to the extent possible, a description of the conventional and unconventional weapons used for any such crimes and the sources of such weapons.

(2) A description and assessment, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Attorney General, and other heads of any other appropriate Federal departments or agencies, of the effectiveness of any programs that the United States has already undertaken to ensure accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide perpetrated against the Rohingya by the military and security forces of Burma, the Rakhine State government, pro-government militias, and all other armed groups operating fighting in Rakhine, including programs to—

(A) train civilian investigators within and outside of Burma and Bangladesh on how to document, investigate, develop findings of, identify, and locate alleged perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide in Burma;

(B) promote and prepare for a transitional justice process or processes for the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide occurring in the State of Rakhine in 2017; and

(C) document, collect, preserve, and protect evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Burma, including by providing support for Burmese, Bangladeshi, foreign, and international non-governmental organizations, the United Nations Human Rights Council's investigative team, and other entities engaged in such investigative activities.

(3) A detailed study of the feasibility and desirability of potential transitional justice mechanisms for Burma, such as an international tribunal, a hybrid tribunal, or other international options, that includes—

(A) a discussion of the use of universal jurisdiction or of legal cases brought against the country of Burma by other sovereign countries at the International Court of Justice to address war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide perpetrated in Burma;

(B) recommendations on which transitional justice mechanisms the United States should support, why such mechanisms should be supported, and what type of support should be offered; and

(C) close consultation regarding transitional justice mechanisms with Rohingya representatives and those of other ethnic minorities who have suffered grave human rights abuses.

(c) PROTECTION OF WITNESSES AND EVIDENCE.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that the identification of witnesses and physical evidence for purposes of the report required by subsection (a) are not publicly disclosed in a manner that might place such persons at risk of harm or encourage the destruction of such evidence by the military or Government of Burma.

(d) CRIME OF APARTHEID.—In this section, the term “crime of apartheid” means inhumane acts that—

(1) are of a character similar to the acts referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (H) of section 2(2);

(2) are committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group; and

(3) are committed with the intention of maintaining such regime.

##### SEC. 402. AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR EFFORTS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is authorized to provide assistance to support appropriate civilian or international entities that are undertaking the efforts described in subsection (b) with respect to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide perpetrated by the military and security forces

of Burma, the Rakhine State government, pro-government militias, or any other armed groups fighting in Rakhine State.

(b) EFFORTS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.—The efforts described in this subsection are the following:

(1) Identifying suspected perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

(2) Collecting, documenting, and protecting evidence of such crimes and preserve the chain of custody for such evidence.

(3) Conducting criminal investigations.

(4) Supporting investigations conducted by other countries, as appropriate.

(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE MECHANISMS.—The Secretary of State, taking into account any relevant findings in the report required by section 401(a), is authorized to provide support for the creation and operation of transitional justice mechanisms, including a potential hybrid tribunal, to prosecute individuals suspected of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide in Burma.

**SEC. 403. STRATEGY FOR PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BURMA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to support sustainable, inclusive and broad-based economic development in Burma, in accordance with the priorities of disadvantaged communities in Burma and in consultation with relevant civil society and local stakeholders, to improve economic conditions and government transparency.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) to promote sustainable, inclusive and broad-based economic development shall include a plan with each of the following elements:

(1) Measures to diversify control over and access to participation in key industries and sectors, including efforts to remove barriers and increase competition, access, and opportunity in sectors dominated by officials of the Burmese military, former military officials, and their families, and businesspeople connected to the military of Burma, with the goal of eliminating the role of the military in the economy of Burma.

(2) Measures to increase transparency disclosure requirements in key sectors of the economy of Burma, to promote responsible investment, including through—

(A) efforts to provide technical support to develop and implement policy reforms related to public disclosure of the beneficial owners of entities in key sectors identified by the Government of Burma, specifically by—

(i) working with the Government of Burma to require the disclosure of the ultimate beneficial ownership of entities in the mining industry and the publication of project revenues, payments, and contract terms relating to that industry; and

(ii) ensuring that reforms complement the disclosures required to be put in place in Burma as a result of its participation in the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative; and

(B) efforts to promote universal access to reliable, affordable, energy efficient, and sustainable power, including leveraging United States assistance to support reforms in the power sector and electrification projects that increase energy access, in partnership with multilateral organizations and the private sector.

(3) Measures to create an enabling environment for economic growth and opportunity for all ethnic groups residing in Burma, in-

cluding through addressing issues related to land tenure.

(4) An identification of needs and opportunities to provide technical assistance to key ministries, institutions, and organizations to enact economic reforms, including revisions to existing policies on public disclosure of beneficial ownership of companies in key sectors that will allow for identification of those seeking or securing access to Burma's most valuable natural resources.

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In developing the strategy required by subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall consult with appropriate officials of the Government of Burma, ethnic groups and civil society leaders in Burma.

(d) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the strategy required by subsection (a), the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report in unclassified form, that may contain a classified annex, that describes—

(1) the extent to which United States assistance and the efforts of the Government of Burma have promoted inclusive and enduring economic development in accordance with such strategy; and

(2) the efforts undertaken, progress achieved, and any next steps planned by either the United States or the Government of Burma with respect to—

(A) the elements in section 401(b);

(B) the promotion of accountability and transparency, including through the collection, verification, and publication of beneficial ownership information related to extractive industries; and

(C) the promotion of best practices regarding—

(i) environmental conservation, management, and planning;

(ii) social impact assessments, including social and cultural protection and free, prior, and informed consent and meaningful participation of local populations, particularly minority ethnic nationalities; and

(iii) avoidance of displacement of local populations without meaningful consultation and consent, harm mitigation, and compensation.

**TITLE V—DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS**

**SEC. 501. 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 gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous materials on H.R. 3190.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1530

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank Chairman ENGEL and Mr. CHABOT for authoring this legislation.

Since August 2017, we have seen some of the most horrific ethnic violence in the world at the hands of the Burmese military in Burma's Rakhine State. The world has been shocked by the brutality of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Burmese military and security forces.

Thousands of Rohingya civilians have been killed. Many hundreds of thousands more have been forced to flee their homes and livelihoods. The U.N. and independent investigators have documented terrible sexual violence against women and girls.

Despite all this bloodshed, there has been no meaningful accountability for those responsible.

Let's be clear: The military that carried out genocide against the Rohingya is the same military that has oppressed and abused minority groups in Burma for decades. It is the same military that carries out abuse against Burmese citizens to this day. This institution is rotten to the core, and it is time for change.

This bill would impose financial, trade, and visa sanctions on those responsible for these crimes, including the commander in chief and those who have failed to investigate and prosecute these abuses. It authorizes \$220 million for humanitarian assistance to affected communities, including communities in Bangladesh. It pushes economic reforms designed to get the military out of the mining industry in Burma.

This legislation passed the House before with an overwhelming vote of support. I urge my colleagues to join me today in doing the same, once again.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, September 20, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,

Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 3190, the Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability (BURMA) Act of 2019. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 3190 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or

similar legislation moves forward and will support the appointment of Committee on Financial Services conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
*Washington, DC, September 23, 2019.*  
Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 3190, the Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability (BURMA) Act of 2019. In order to permit the H.R. 3190 to proceed expeditiously to the House Floor, I agree to forgo formal consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action to forego formal consideration of H.R. 3190 with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing formal consideration of H.R. 3190 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and request your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 3190.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,  
*Chairwoman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
*Washington, DC, September 20, 2019.*  
Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 3190, Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability Act of 2019, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Con-

gressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3190.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, September 24, 2019.*  
Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 3190, the Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability (BURMA) Act of 2019. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 3190 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation. Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
*Washington, DC, September 12, 2019.*  
Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 3190, the "Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability Act of 2019," that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 3190, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, September 19, 2019.*  
Hon. JERROLD NADLER,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 3190, the Burma Unified

through Rigorous Military Accountability (BURMA) Act of 2019. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 3190 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
*Chairman.*

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Chairman ENGEL's BURMA Act of 2019. The Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously adopted this bill, reflecting a bipartisan consensus that the Burmese military's atrocities against the Rohingya people must not go unanswered.

The committee has a decades-long history of holding Burmese forces accountable for their crimes. This is important, now more than ever after their so-called clearance operations against the Rohingya in August 2017.

The world watched in horror as Burmese troops razed villages to the ground, killed indiscriminately, committed unspeakable acts against women and children, and laid landmines in the path of refugees as they fled into neighboring Bangladesh.

Today, over 1 million Rohingya remain in Bangladesh, living in desperate conditions, unable to return to their home safely.

The scale and scope of this crisis unites this whole House. Last December, this body adopted Congressman CHABOT's resolution, H. Res. 1091, declaring that the Burmese military is guilty of genocide.

Chairman ENGEL's BURMA Act of 2019 will selectively revive the sanctions regime against the Burmese military, which was recklessly scrapped during the last administration. This step is long overdue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Chairman ENGEL for introducing the BURMA Act of 2019 in this Congress.

The Burmese military is responsible for genocide, yet they continue to wield constitutional power over Burma's government and significant influence over Burma's economy.

This bill is a long-overdue response to that injustice and will reimpose costs on the toxic influence of the Burmese military.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.



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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 2 years since the massacres in Rakhine State, and the suffering continues across the border in Bangladesh.

The House has passed this legislation before with an overwhelming and bipartisan vote, sending a strong message to perpetrators and victims alike. I urge my colleagues to join me today in doing the same once again.

This legislation is a necessary response to one of the most pressing human rights and humanitarian concerns in the entire world today. I am glad the House is considering it. I salute the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), my chairman, and I encourage all Members to vote for its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3190, as amended.

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. LEVIN of Michigan. 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.

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**EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON IMPORTANCE AND VITALITY OF THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCES WITH JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 127) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the importance and vitality of the United States alliances with Japan and the Republic of Korea, and our trilateral cooperation in the pursuit of shared interests, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 127

Whereas the governments and the people of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea share comprehensive and dynamic partnerships and personal friendships rooted in shared interests and the common values of freedom, democracy, and free market economies;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are all free societies committed to the principles of inclusive democracy, respect for human potential, and the belief that the peaceful spread of these principles will result in a safer and brighter future for all of mankind;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are indispensable partners in tackling global challenges and have pledged significant support for efforts to counter violent extremism, combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, prevent piracy, improve global health and energy security, promote human rights, address climate change, contribute to economic development around the world, and assist the victims of conflict and disaster worldwide;

Whereas the governments and the people of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea all share a commitment to free and open markets, high standards for the free flow of commerce and trade, and the establishment of an inclusive, transparent, and sustainable architecture for regional and global trade and development;

Whereas the United States-Japan and the United States-Republic of Korea alliances are the foundation of regional stability in Asia, including against the threat posed by the regime in Pyongyang;

Whereas cooperation between and among our nations spans economic, energy, diplomatic, security, and cultural spheres;

Whereas the United States and Japan established diplomatic relations on March 31, 1854, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity;

Whereas the relationship between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Korea stretches back to Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;

Whereas 2019 marks the 74th anniversary of the end of World War II, a conflict in which the United States and Japan were enemies, and the strength of the United States-Japan alliance is a testament to the ability of great countries to overcome the past and to work together to create a more secure and prosperous future;

Whereas the United States-Korea alliance was forged in blood, with United States military casualties during the Korean War of approximately 36,574 killed and more than 103,284 wounded, and with Republic of Korea casualties of more than 217,000 soldiers killed, more than 291,000 soldiers missing, and over 1,000,000 civilians killed or missing;

Whereas, for the past 70 years, the partnership between the United States and Japan has played a vital role, both in Asia and globally, in ensuring peace, stability, and economic development;

Whereas, approximately 50,000 United States military personnel serve in Japan, along with some of the United States most advanced defense assets, including the 7th Fleet and the USS Ronald Reagan, the only United States aircraft carrier to be homeported outside the United States;

Whereas, since the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea, signed in Washington on October 1, 1953, and ratified by the Senate on January 26, 1954, United States military personnel have maintained a continuous presence on the Korean Peninsula, and approximately 28,500 United States troops are stationed in the Republic of Korea in 2019;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have stood alongside each other in the four major wars the United States has fought outside Korea since World War II—in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas Japan is the fourth-largest United States trading partner and together with the United States represents 30 percent of global Gross Domestic Product, and Japanese firms have invested \$469,000,000,000 in the United States;

Whereas, the economic relationship between the United States and its sixth-largest trading partner, the Republic of Korea, with which we have a free trade agreement, includes 358,000 jobs in the United States that are directly related to exports to the Republic of Korea, and has resulted in more than \$40,000,000,000 in investments by Korean firms in the United States;

Whereas Japan and the Republic of Korea stand as strong partners of the United States in efforts to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation, commerce, and overflight and to uphold respect for the rule of law and to oppose the use of coercion, intimidation, or force to change the regional or global status quo, including in the maritime domains of the Indo-Pacific, which are among the busiest waterways in the world;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are committed to working together towards a world where the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this preamble referred to as the "DPRK") does not threaten global peace and security with its weapons of mass destruction, missile proliferation, and illicit activities, and where the DPRK respects human rights and its people can live in freedom;

Whereas section 211 of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9231; Public Law 114-122) expresses the sense of Congress that the President "should seek to strengthen high-level trilateral mechanisms for discussion and coordination of policy toward North Korea between the Government of the United States, the Government of South Korea, and the Government of Japan";

Whereas the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409) underscores the importance of trilateral defense cooperation and enforcement of multilateral sanctions against North Korea and calls for regular consultation with Congress on the status of such efforts;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea have made great strides in promoting trilateral cooperation and defense partnership, including ministerial meetings, information sharing, and cooperation on ballistic missile defense exercises to counter North Korean provocations;

Whereas the United States views the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) between the Republic of Korea and Japan as important to United States security interests in the region, and trilateral information sharing as a critical aspect of cooperation between our allies;

Whereas Japanese Americans and Korean Americans have made invaluable contributions to the security, prosperity, and diversity of our Nation, including service as our elected representatives in the Senate and in the House of Representatives; and

Whereas the United States Government looks forward to continuing to deepen our enduring partnerships with Japan and the Republic of Korea on economic, security, and cultural issues, as well as embracing new opportunities for bilateral and trilateral partnerships and cooperation on emerging regional and global challenges: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives reaffirms the importance of—

(1) the vital role of the alliances between the United States and Japan and the United States and the Republic of Korea in promoting peace, stability, and security in the Indo-Pacific region, including through United States extended deterrence, and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to defend Japan, including all areas under the administration of Japan, under Article V of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the United States of America

and Japan, and to defend the Republic of Korea under Article III of the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea;

(2) a constructive and forward-looking relationship between Japan and the Republic of Korea for United States diplomatic, economic, and security interests and for open and inclusive architecture to support the development of a secure, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region;

(3) strengthening and broadening diplomatic, economic, security, and people-to-people ties between and among the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea;

(4) developing and implementing a strategy to deepen the trilateral diplomatic and security cooperation between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, including through diplomatic engagement, regional development, energy security, scientific and health partnerships, educational and cultural exchanges, missile defense, intelligence-sharing, space, cyber, and other diplomatic and defense-related initiatives;

(5) trilateral cooperation with members of the United Nations Security Council and other Member States to fully and effectively enforce sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this resolution referred to as the "DPRK") and evaluate additional and meaningful new measures toward the DPRK under Article 41 of the United Nations Charter;

(6) trilateral cooperation to support and uphold a rules-based trade and economic order in the Indo-Pacific region, including the empowerment of women, which is vital for the prosperity of all our nations;

(7) supporting the expansion of academic and cultural exchanges among the three nations, especially efforts to encourage Japanese and Korean students to study at universities in the United States, and vice versa, to deepen people-to-people ties; and

(8) continued cooperation among the governments of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea to promote human rights.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 127.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure, and I want to start by thanking Chairman ENGEL for his leadership in bringing this measure forward today and Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. YOHO for their partnership in demonstrating this is a bipartisan effort aimed at strengthening the trilateral ties among the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

For many years now, our three countries have worked hard to lay the foundation for enduring regional security

in Northeast Asia. We have found common ground in many areas: promoting a rules-based economic order in Asia, defending against aggression from North Korea, and ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight, to name a few.

Recently, however, there has been an alarming deterioration of relations between Seoul and Tokyo. Of particular concern to U.S. interests has been the decision to end the 2015 agreement, an agreement the U.S. worked closely with Seoul and Tokyo to reach, as well as the politicization of bilateral trade disputes. There is no question that we need to get this relationship back on track.

The United States, Japan, and Korea have nothing to gain from the current trajectory, but we all have a lot to lose. American businesses lose out when tense trade relations create uncertainty about markets and supply chains. American security is undermined when one of our greatest assets, our alliances, are weakened. And, of course, those who want to see the rules-based order in Asia topple benefit from all of this.

This resolution calls on the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea to strengthen our trilateral cooperation in areas critical to all of us and to safeguard and strengthen our longstanding diplomatic, economic, security, and people-to-people ties.

This is a good measure that I am pleased to support, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which Chairman ENGEL and I introduced earlier this year.

The U.S. alliances with Japan and South Korea remain critical to U.S. national security interests in the Indo-Pacific and around the world. The trilateral cooperation we share with both of these allies is essential now more than ever, as we face China's aggressive expansion with its Belt and Road policy and North Korea's continued nuclear belligerence.

But the relationship between South Korea and Japan continues to be burdened by historical grievances surrounding imperial Japan's conduct both before and during World War II.

These tensions have flared up since late 2018, developing into an export control dispute and, more recently, affecting our security cooperation.

For instance, last month, South Korea announced that it will withdraw from the General Security of Military Information Agreement with Japan. This key intelligence-sharing pact is essential to our joint responses to North Korean missile launches and other fast-developing military crises. South Korea's withdrawal will take effect in November, so it is essential that this confrontation between the two im-

portant U.S. allies be resolved as soon as possible.

Chairman ENGEL's resolution is a timely reminder of the U.S. relationship with both of these critical security partners and the enduring importance of our trilateral cooperation.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Japan has now banned certain products to be exported to South Korea that are used by South Korea and Samsung, which is in my district. They are the largest foreign investment in the United States. Samsung will be hamstrung in its ability to create semiconductor chips and bring them to the United States and its facility out in Austin, Texas, in my district.

For all these reasons, and national security reasons, most importantly, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution offers a positive vision for our trilateral relationship. Its passage today reaffirms the importance of our countries' cooperation on critical economic and security issues and calls on Seoul, Tokyo, and Washington, collectively, to develop a strategy to reverse the current trajectory and to work together to build stronger ties.

It is a good resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 127, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REAFFIRMING IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 444) reaffirming the importance of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 444

Whereas the United States has historically served as the benchmark for establishing a comprehensive response to displacement crises around the world, as well as for promoting the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons;

Whereas June 20 is observed as World Refugee Day, a global day to acknowledge the courage, strength, resilience, and determination of women, men, and children who are forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, and persecution;

Whereas, in 2018, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—

(1) there were more than 70,800,000 displaced persons worldwide, the worst displacement crisis in global history, including more than 25,900,000 refugees, over 41,300,000 internally displaced persons, and 3,500,000 people seeking asylum;

(2) on average, 37,000 people were forced from their homes each day in the absence of peace and reconciliation in countries where armed conflict, violence, and persecution continue to reign;

(3) 13,600,000 new individuals and families were displaced, the majority of whom were displaced within the borders of their own countries;

(4) 60 percent of preventable maternal deaths occur in situations of conflict and displacement, and 1 in 5 refugees or displaced women in situations of humanitarian crisis suffer sexual violence, a figure which is likely underestimated;

(5) children accounted for about half of all refugees, only half of them attend school;

(6) refugee children were five times more likely to be out of school than children who are not displaced, with refugee girls having less access to school than refugee boys;

(7) 67 percent of all refugees came from Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Somalia, including 6,654,000 refugees from Syria alone;

(8) there were more than 13,000,000 forcibly displaced Syrians, including 6,654,000 refugees, 6,184,000 internally displaced people, and 140,000 asylum-seekers; and

(9) 84 percent of all refugees were hosted by developing nations, and less than 1 percent of vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement had the opportunity to resettle because sufficient numbers of places do not exist; and

Whereas the United States resettlement program is a life-saving solution critical to global humanitarian efforts, which serves to strengthen global security, advance United States foreign policy goals, and support regional host countries while serving individuals and families in need: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the bipartisan commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, education, and well-being of the millions of refugees and displaced persons uprooted by war, persecution, and violence in search of peace, hope, and freedom;

(2) supports those who have risked their lives, working either individually or for non-governmental organizations or international agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to provide life-saving assistance and protection to those displaced around the world;

(3) underscores the importance of the United States refugee resettlement program as a critical tool for United States global leadership to leverage foreign policy, strengthen national and regional security, and encourage international solidarity with host countries;

(4) calls upon the United States Secretary of State and United States Ambassador to the United Nations to—

(A) continue supporting robust funding for refugee protection and humanitarian response overseas and resettlement to the United States;

(B) uphold the United States international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance,

and restore its leadership role in the protection of vulnerable refugee populations that endure sexual violence, human trafficking, persecution and violence against religious minorities, forced conscription, genocide, and exploitation;

(C) work in partnership with the international community to find solutions to existing conflicts, promote peace and reconciliation, and prevent new conflicts from beginning;

(D) continue supporting the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to advance the work of nongovernmental organizations to protect refugees regardless of their country of origin or religious beliefs;

(E) continue to alleviate pressures on frontline refugee host countries that absorb the majority of the world's refugees through humanitarian and development support; and

(F) respond to the global refugee crisis by meeting robust refugee admissions goals; and

(5) reaffirms the goals of World Refugee Day and reiterates the strong commitment to protect the millions of refugees who live without material, social, or legal protections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H. Res. 444.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to start by thanking the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for introducing this resolution, which affirms the importance of U.S. leadership to assist the unprecedented number of refugees and displaced persons around the world.

Our country has a rich history of accepting refugees from all walks of life. It is the cornerstone of what makes America so special and why so many of us are actually standing here today.

For decades, the United States admitted more refugees than any other country. As a nation of immigrants, Americans have always felt a special obligation to take in people fleeing violence and danger.

But now, precisely when we are facing a worldwide refugee crisis, with the numbers of displaced people at a record high, the Trump administration has drastically cut admissions. They are rejecting our traditions of openness and willingness to help people facing great peril by slamming the door on these innocent men, women, and children.

There are 70.8 million people who are displaced around the globe, and the Trump administration has cut the

number we are allowing into our country to 30,000. It is a Band-Aid on a bullet wound, and it is a moral stain on this country.

This resolution emphasizes the need for the U.S. to lead on the global refugee crisis and calls on the Secretary of State and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to continue supporting refugees and displaced persons. It is a good measure that I urge my colleagues to support.

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

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

#### COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, September 12, 2019.

Hon JERROLD NADLER,

Committee on the Judiciary,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 444, Reaffirming the importance of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 444 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,

Chairman.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, September 12, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H. Res. 444, "Reaffirming the importance of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons," that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H. Res. 444, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have

worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,  
*Chairman.*

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan resolution focusing on refugees and displaced persons, and I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for introducing the resolution.

Today, conflict, violence, and natural disasters have displaced more than 70 million people around the world, the highest levels in history. We see these traumas in Syria, in Venezuela, in sub-Saharan Africa, in Burma and many other places.

These huge movements of vulnerable people and populations are not just humanitarian crises, but also strategic challenges to the stability of many critical regions.

The United States is and will continue to be a leader in confronting this reality. We remain the largest single donor supporting the needs of refugees and displaced persons around the world. But, as the need is increasing, we must also push our partners and other responsible nations to contribute more to these important efforts.

This resolution also, appropriately, recognizes the men and women who risk their lives to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to refugee populations. Without their bravery and dedication, none of this work would be possible.

In closing, I want to urge all my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Let me also say, on a point of personal privilege, I have enjoyed this exchange, this debate today with my good friend from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), carrying on what I consider to be what the Foreign Affairs Committee is most proud of, and that is we are the most bipartisan committee in the House and, I would argue, in the Congress, and it is a great tradition to carry forward. I look forward to working with Mr. LEVIN in the future.

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, 80 years ago, at the beginning of World War II, a ship called the *St. Louis* neared America's shores. 937 passengers, almost all Jewish refugees of the Nazis, asked for the United States to allow them entry.

We easily could have absorbed all these people and more, but instead we turned them away. Many were taken in by Western European countries, but 254, more than a quarter of them, died in the Holocaust. We could have prevented these deaths, but we didn't.

So as we consider this resolution, let's remember the lessons of the *St. Louis*. I remain committed to undoing

the devastation done to America's tradition of admitting refugees. Our country's ceiling for refugee admissions is already at a historic low. We must do more to provide safe haven for the 70.8 million innocent people who are displaced all around this world.

This administration's crackdown on refugees is irresponsible. It leaves a moral stain on our Nation and will contribute to national security threats stemming from global instability.

I urge my colleagues to support the good, bipartisan measure offered by Mr. LIEU and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

I echo my colleague from Texas Mr. McCAUL's remarks. It is a deep honor to be here debating this measure with Mr. McCAUL, and I look forward to working with him in a bipartisan manner that is really a unique and a proud tradition of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 444, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1820

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BROWNLEY of California) at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

#### BURMA UNIFIED THROUGH RIGOROUS MILITARY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3190) to authorize humanitarian assistance and impose sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 21, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 541]

YEAS—394

Adams	Doggett	King (NY)
Aderholt	Doyle, Michael	Kinzinger
Aguilar	F.	Kirkpatrick
Allen	Duncan	Krishnamoorthi
Allred	Dunn	Kuster (NH)
Amodei	Emmer	Kustoff (TN)
Armstrong	Engel	LaHood
Arrington	Escobar	LaMalfa
Axne	Eshoo	Lamb
Babin	Espallat	Lamborn
Bacon	Estes	Langevin
Baird	Evans	Larsen (WA)
Balderson	Ferguson	Larson (CT)
Banks	Finkenauer	Latta
Barr	Fitzpatrick	Lawrence
Barragán	Fleischmann	Lawson (FL)
Bass	Fletcher	Lee (NV)
Beatty	Flores	Lesko
Bera	Fortenberry	Levin (CA)
Bergman	Foster	Levin (MI)
Beyer	Fox (NC)	Lewis
Bilirakis	Frankel	Lieu, Ted
Bishop (GA)	Fudge	Lipinski
Bishop (UT)	Fulcher	Loeb
Blumenauer	Gaetz	Lofgren
Blunt Rochester	Gallagher	Long
Bonamici	Gallego	Loudermilk
Bost	Garamendi	Lowenthal
Boyle, Brendan	Garcia (IL)	Lowe
F.	Garcia (TX)	Lucas
Brady	Gianforte	Luetkemeyer
Brindisi	Gibbs	Lujan
Brooks (IN)	Golden	Luria
Brown (MD)	Gomez	Lynch
Brownley (CA)	Gonzalez (OH)	Malinowski
Buchanan	Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney
Buck	Gooden	Carolyn B.
Bucshon	Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean
Budd	Granger	Marchant
Burgess	Graves (GA)	Marshall
Bustos	Graves (LA)	Mast
Calvert	Graves (MO)	Matsui
Carbajal	Green (TN)	McAdams
Cárdenas	Green, Al (TX)	McBath
Carson (IN)	Griffith	McCarthy
Carter (GA)	Grothman	McCauley
Carter (TX)	Guest	McClintock
Cartwright	Guthrie	McCollum
Case	Haaland	McGovern
Casten (IL)	Hagedorn	McHenry
Castor (FL)	Harder (CA)	McKinley
Castro (TX)	Harris	McNerney
Chabot	Hartzler	Meadows
Chu, Judy	Hastings	Meeks
Ciçilline	Hayes	Meng
Cisneros	Heck	Meuser
Clark (MA)	Hern, Kevin	Miller
Clarke (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Mitchell
Clay	Higgins (NY)	Moolenaar
Cleaver	Hill (AR)	Moore
Cohen	Hill (CA)	Morelle
Cole	Himes	Moulton
Collins (GA)	Holding	Mucarsel-Powell
Collins (NY)	Hollingsworth	Mullin
Comer	Horn, Kendra S.	Murphy (FL)
Conaway	Horsford	Nadler
Connolly	Houlahan	Napolitano
Cook	Hoyer	Neal
Cooper	Hudson	Neguse
Correa	Huffman	Newhouse
Costa	Huizenga	Norcross
Courtney	Hunter	Nunes
Cox (CA)	Hurd (TX)	O'Halleran
Craig	Jackson Lee	Ocasio-Cortez
Crenshaw	Jayapal	Olson
Crist	Jeffries	Omar
Crow	Johnson (GA)	Palazzo
Cuellar	Johnson (OH)	Pallone
Cunningham	Johnson (SD)	Palmer
Curtis	Johnson (TX)	Panetta
Davids (KS)	Jordan	Pappas
Davidson (OH)	Joyce (OH)	Pascarell
Davis, Danny K.	Joyce (PA)	Payne
Davis, Rodney	Kaptur	Pence
Dean	Katko	Perlmutter
DeFazio	Keating	Perry
DeGette	Keller	Peters
DeLauro	Kelly (IL)	Peterson
DelBene	Kelly (MS)	Phillips
Delgado	Kelly (PA)	Pingree
Demings	Kennedy	Pocan
DeSaulnier	Khanna	Porter
DesJarlais	Kildee	Posey
Deutch	Kilmer	Pressley
Diaz-Balart	Kim	Price (NC)
Dingell	Kind	Quigley

Raskin	Shalala	Trone
Ratcliffe	Sherman	Turner
Reed	Sherrill	Underwood
Reschenthaler	Shimkus	Upton
Rice (NY)	Simpson	Van Drew
Rice (SC)	Sires	Vargas
Richmond	Slotkin	Veasey
Roby	Smith (MO)	Vela
Rodgers (WA)	Smith (NE)	Velázquez
Roe, David P.	Smith (NJ)	Visclosky
Rogers (AL)	Smith (WA)	Wagner
Rogers (KY)	Smucker	Walden
Rooney (FL)	Soto	Walker
Rose (NY)	Spanberger	Walorski
Rose, John W.	Speier	Waltz
Rouda	Stanton	Wasserman
Rouzer	Staubert	Schultz
Roybal-Allard	Steil	Waters
Ruiz	Stevens	Watkins
Rush	Stewart	Watson Coleman
Rutherford	Stivers	Weber (TX)
Sánchez	Suoizzi	Webster (FL)
Sarbanes	Swalwell (CA)	Welch
Scalise	Takano	Wenstrup
Scanlon	Taylor	Westerman
Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)	Wexton
Schiff	Thompson (MS)	Wild
Schneider	Thompson (PA)	Williams
Schrader	Thornberry	Wilson (FL)
Schrier	Timmons	Wilson (SC)
Schweikert	Titus	Wittman
Scott (VA)	Tlaib	Womack
Scott, Austin	Tonko	Woodall
Scott, David	Torres (CA)	Yarmuth
Sensenbrenner	Torres Small	Yoho
Serrano	(NM)	Young
Sewell (AL)	Trahan	Zeldin

## NAYS—21

Amash	Cloud	Mooney (WV)
Biggs	Gohmert	Norman
Bishop (NC)	Gosar	Riggleman
Brooks (AL)	Hice (GA)	Roy
Burchett	Johnson (LA)	Spano
Byrne	King (IA)	Steube
Cline	Massie	Tipton

## NOT VOTING—18

Abraham	Davis (CA)	Murphy (NC)
Butterfield	Gabbard	Ruppersberger
Cheney	Grijalva	Ryan
Clyburn	Higgins (LA)	Stefanik
Crawford	Lee (CA)	Walberg
Cummings	McEachin	Wright

□ 1902

Messrs. NORMAN, JOHNSON of Louisiana, BISHOP of North Carolina, and MOONEY of West Virginia changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. DAVIDSON of Ohio, PALMER, and GROTHMAN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 464

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 464, a bill originally introduced by Representative Walter Jones of North Carolina, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XVII.

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

There was no objection.

## HONORING DR. EMILY CLYBURN

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor Dr. Emily England Clyburn, the wife of Majority Whip JAMES E. CLYBURN, after her passing on September 19.

It is often said that behind every great man is an even greater woman. Certainly, this was true of Dr. Clyburn. She was a great woman who supported a great man.

Known affectionately as Miss Emily or Dr. Em, Dr. Clyburn was a kind, compassionate, and incredibly generous woman.

She spent most of her career as a librarian, first in public schools and then for almost 30 years at the Charleston Naval Base and Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina. Her love of learning led her to raise millions of dollars to create more need-based scholarships for her alma mater, South Carolina State University.

Mrs. Clyburn knew the importance of a good education, and she wanted to create more opportunities for students of color throughout the State. It was part of her strong commitment to equality.

We will remember her as a dedicated fighter for civil rights. She was a model of class and character throughout her life.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. CLYBURN; his daughters, Mignon, Jennifer, and Angela; the family; and all the people of South Carolina during this time of loss.

## WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER MODI

(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, on Sunday, I was grateful for the opportunity to participate in the “Howdy, Modi” welcome celebration for Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India in Houston attended by over 50,000 Indian Americans.

With President Donald Trump attending, this event was historic for being the largest such welcome for a world leader in the history in the United States. It was an extraordinary day to appreciate India as the world’s largest democracy, with America being the world’s oldest democracy.

The Prime Minister praised President Trump as a true friend in the White House, describing the President as “warm, friendly, accessible, energetic, and full of wit.” Mr. Trump praised Mr. Modi for doing a truly exceptional job for India. He also paid tribute to the Indian American community for its dynamic contributions with success in America.

I appreciate being invited by President KV Kumar of the Indian American

International Chamber of Commerce and being hosted by Ambassador Harsh Shringla and Consul General Swati Kulkarni.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism with the leadership of President Donald Trump.

## INSPIRE TODAY’S INNOVATORS

(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, last week, I was proud to support the Christa McAuliffe Commemorative Coin Act. There is no better way to honor an educator, explorer, and trailblazer like Ms. McAuliffe than to educate the next generation of learners.

The explosion of the space shuttle *Challenger* was a heartbreaking tragedy, but Ms. McAuliffe gave her life in pursuit of discovering the next frontier. She was not afraid of dreaming big. She boldly went out to test our knowledge of what is possible and pushed humanity forward.

The commemorative coins created through this act will inspire and support the same passion in the young people who participate in the FIRST Robotics Program today.

Founded by Dean Kamen—the inventor of my chair, the iBot—FIRST uses science, technology, engineering, art, and math, or STEAM, to get young people excited about learning and innovating.

In Ms. McAuliffe’s memory, FIRST competitions are inspiring the next generation of scientists, explorers, and leaders who we will need to solve the problems of today and tomorrow.

## RECOGNIZING HARRY W. SWEZEY, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer Harry W. Swezey, Jr., as we celebrate his 80th birthday on September 27.

Mr. Swezey is a true American hero who served for more than 20 years in the United States Navy and Coast Guard, earning numerous awards for his valiant service.

Born in Malden, Massachusetts, in 1939, Mr. Swezey’s father served in the Navy during World War II but passed away in an aircraft accident after the war. Nevertheless, Mr. Swezey’s passion for serving our Nation persisted, and he enlisted in the U.S. Navy upon graduation from high school.

After transferring to serve in the U.S. Army, he fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a helicopter pilot, serving all over the world, including in the Korean Demilitarized Zone, the

Czech Republic-Germany border, and in the Middle East.

Rising to the rank of chief warrant officer, Mr. Sweezy retired from the Army in 1991 and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Mr. Sweezy continues to serve, having joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in his retirement community of Panama City, Florida, rising to the rank of flotilla commander.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Sweezy for his service to our country. He is an inspiration to us all.

#### RECOGNIZE CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I was speaking to one of our colleagues who indicated that he held a town hall meeting where he was explaining, as a civics matter, the Constitution of the United States and the role of the United States Congress in holding the executive accountable. He said his constituents relished the opportunity to understand the process.

I am going to remind our colleagues that any time we move toward a process that is constitutionally based, it is somber and respectful, detailed and efficient.

So I want to read from Article I, Section 2, Clause 5, which indicates that the House of Representatives “shall have the sole power of impeachment.” Article II states that the President “shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.” Article II also requires that the President “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.”

With that in mind, I believe it is important that this Congress recognizes its duty to work in an efficient manner; that all committees work and investigate, and all committees do their work in a somber manner; and that we continue to educate our constituents about the value of the Constitution, the beauty of this Nation, and the rule of law. That would mean that we are doing our job as Members of the United States Congress.

The Constitution governs the order of our nation and it dictates the work of the Congress. Article I details the powers of the House and the exercising of these powers as they relate to the coordinate, coequal branches of government, codified in Articles II and Articles III: three equal branches of government coexisting and cohesively working to provide oversight to the respective actions of the Congress, the Executive and Judiciary. This has worked, with challenges of course, since 1789, and the situation which we are now currently facing is directed by three provisions of the Constitution.

Article I, Section 2, Clause 5 indicates that the “House of Representatives . . . shall have the sole power of impeachment.” Article II states that the “The President . . .

shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.; Article II also requires that the “President take care that the laws are faithfully executed.”

That language is stark and clear—and throughout our history it has been used in varying periods where the assessment was that the law has been breached. Sometimes Congresses are concerned that the weight and view of the American people should be considered. Sometimes they are moved by the urgency of the matter. We now have an urgent matter: that matter involves the President of the United States speaking to a sovereign foreign nation and conspicuously and overtly asking for an investigation of his opponent in a presidential election, forthcoming in 2020. In addition to this request for an overt investigation of an American citizen, within close proximity to this, the president directed a staff member to deny the directives of the United States Congress to provide foreign aid to this sovereign nation—Ukraine—an act that is without comparison in our knowledge in the history of the United States, and an act that falls within the language of the law of the Constitution, abuse of power and certainly one that violates Article II’s dictate that the President ensure that the laws are faithfully executed.

Let us be very clear: monies were stalled, denied and delayed to a sovereign nation in the backdrop of a directive of Congress to issue funds to a sovereign nation as leverage in order to investigate a private citizen of the United States. Further, the series of acts of obstruction involving Congress has been bold and continuous. The House Judiciary Committee effectively has brought forth witnesses, and sought witnesses that were then directed by the President to not appear, in violation of the three equal branches of government. In spite of that, the committee has meticulously continued its work in building a case for impeachment.

Last week, we prepared extensively for the testimony of Corey Lewandowsky, who is not and has never been a federal employee, was not employed by the White House at any time, and not employed by the federal government at any time and also who was directed by the President to rebuff, stall and thwart; and who also was, in essence, directed to stain the constitutional process, by his responses, and the authority of the Congress.

Article I gives the Congress, and the House of Representatives in particular, its authority to proceed to hold the President of the United States accountable. There is no room for any other process. There is no other action. There is no other time. With a heavy heart, it is imperative that the impeachment inquiry begin and that the Articles of Impeachment are filed expeditiously; and that the Constitution works with the full authority of the United States Congress. That the Article I works with Article III courts to ensure an orderly response and respectful approach to this somber, sacred and high calling of the Congress and the Nation.

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#### RECOGNIZING JOHN WOOD’S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, it is very fitting that John Wood receive a lifetime achievement award from the Career Colleges & Schools of Texas.

He and his wife, Victoria, have worked tirelessly to make the Ocean Corporation a place where students gain the skills they need to lead successful and productive lives in a variety of occupations that benefit not only the student but also the State of Texas and, indeed, the country and the world.

Their focus is always on ensuring that the programs are of the highest quality and that students are career-ready when they leave their various programs.

Having visited the Ocean Corporation myself, I can testify to the dedication of the faculty and staff that John and Victoria have assembled. In addition to their dedication to high-quality programs, they have maintained their enthusiasm for the value of career education and the choices that it presents.

John is deserving of the award, and I commend all who are responsible for recognizing him and his true lifetime achievement.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MUST COMPLY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus. Like so many Americans, I am alarmed by President Trump’s repeated betrayal of American national security interests in favor of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin.

This President, President Trump, has put efforts forward to coerce Ukraine’s new President Zelensky, an allied leader, into helping Trump win reelection by using congressionally supported military aid as leverage.

That is not only a dramatic betrayal of the President’s oath of office; it is also the latest example of Trump doing Putin’s bidding.

I am certain this President’s relationship with Vladimir Putin didn’t start with his veiled support for Putin’s election meddling, inviting the Russians to hack the DNC, or even lobbying for inviting Russia to be readmitted to the G7, for heaven’s sake.

So, who benefits when Ukraine loses military assistance and Zelensky is humiliated? Russia: the country that has waged a bloody war in Ukraine for over 5 years, leaving over 13,000 dead, 30,000 injured, and over 1.5 million people displaced.

Who is to say Putin wasn’t listening in when Trump blackmailed Zelensky?

Let's have the full truth. It is a great cleanser.

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

#### CONGRATULATING BAYLOR, SCOTT & WHITE THE HEART HOSPITAL

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Baylor, Scott & White The Heart Hospital for being named Physician Hospital of the Year by Physician Hospitals of America.

Located in my hometown of Plano, Texas, The Heart Hospital ranks as one of the top-performing cardiac surgical programs in the entire country and provides Collin County with the highest level of cardiac healthcare.

Since opening in 2007, The Heart Hospital has worked day in and day out to save lives and ensure compassion to everyone who enters there.

Our community is proud to be the home of this state-of-the-art facility and its many astounding healthcare providers and staff.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Heart Hospital of Plano on their recent success and thanking them for all their hard work.

#### VETERANS' ISSUES

(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 speak on two significant issues that affect the brave individuals who have fought for our Nation.

First, almost a quarter of all veterans in the United States—approximately 4.7 million—reside in rural communities. While veterans may enjoy the benefits of rural living, they also experience unique challenges in accessing the healthcare they need and deserve.

Currently, through reauthorization, the Department of Veterans Affairs grant program for the transportation of highly rural veterans appropriates \$3 million for the Department to provide transportation in rural areas. This program should not need annual reauthorization; it should be made permanent.

Second, the Veterans Benefits Administration has moved to electronically process over 99 percent of compensation claims since the implementation of the Veterans Benefits Management System. This transition has been key in reducing the backlog of claims, modernizing the Federal Government, and improving efficiency.

I propose amending title 38 of the United States Code to assist the VA as they modernize and utilize today's

technological advancements in order to best serve our veterans.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in working on legislation that will fix these oversights and to further support every person who serves our Nation.

#### THANKING YORK COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the York County Economic Alliance for their work to promote opportunity zones in York County.

Madam Speaker, we know that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 is working for the American people, allowing families to keep more of their hard-earned dollars in their paychecks.

Businesses are expanding and creating jobs across York and Lancaster Counties, creating an economy with more opportunity for everyone.

One of the strongest tools created by the TCJA is opportunity zones, a way to spur development and job creation in economically distressed communities.

In fact, I look forward to hosting the Small Business Administration for an opportunity zone roundtable in the near future to share with our community the potential advantages of investments in their neighborhoods.

The YCEA, led by President and CEO Kevin Schreiber and Silas Chamberlin, the Vice President of Economic and Community Development, has done an incredible job through its website, "opportunityyork.org," sharing how opportunity zones can positively transform our communities. This is a great example of a local chamber helping businesses build and invest for the benefit of our shared community.

Madam Speaker, York County is open for business with the help of the YCEA. I thank them for being a reliable and hardworking partner for York County's economic growth and prosperity.

#### CONGRATULATING BARBARA KIM-HAGEMANN, NEW JERSEY VFW STATE COMMANDER

(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, on June 22, Barbara Kim-Hagemann became the first woman—the very first woman—to be installed as State commander for New Jersey's Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Barbara is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during Desert Shield and during Desert Storm.

When she returned to America, she joined a VFW, and the VFW post was in Jackson, New Jersey. There, she be-

came the first female post commander in Ocean County and then the first female district commander, where she served for two terms.

Now, as VFW State commander, Barbara's project for this year focuses on veteran suicide prevention and mental health awareness, a subject that is so important and needs so much work. She also works on strengthening networks of support, communication, and care for veterans across New Jersey's communities.

We are incredibly lucky to have Barbara. I thank her for her service abroad and the continued service she brings to our south Jersey community. Her State is proud of her, south Jersey is proud of her, and the United States of America is proud of her.

May God bless Barbara Kim-Hagemann.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2203, HOMELAND SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3525, U.S. BORDER PATROL MEDICAL SCREENING STANDARDS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 576, EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT MADE TO INSPECTOR GENERAL OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. SCANLON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-217) on the resolution (H. Res. 577) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2203) to increase transparency, accountability, and community engagement within the Department of Homeland Security, provide independent oversight of border security activities, improve training for agents and officers of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3525) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish uniform processes for medical screening of individuals interdicted between ports of entry, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 576) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the whistleblower complaint of August 12, 2019, made to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight that September is

National Suicide Prevention Month. This is not an easy subject to talk about, especially since each person's circumstances differ. Yet, as the number 10 cause of death in the U.S., it is vital that people understand the issues concerning suicide and mental health so that anyone can help a person in crisis.

That is the focus of the advocacy message surrounding National Suicide Prevention Month this year, which is "Be the one to." Be the one to, because we can all follow the five action steps to make an impact on someone's life:

Be the one to ask.

Be the one to keep them safe.

Be the one to be there.

Be the one to help them connect.

Be the one to follow up.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website also provides tips to better identify potential warning signs before applying these five steps, as well as other resources.

For those in crisis, know that you are not alone and help is available. The lifeline is run 24/7 and can be reached at 1-800-273-8255.

#### SUICIDE TRENDS

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I, too, rise on the issue of suicide.

Every day in America, 129 people die by suicide. Over a single year, that is more than 47,000 souls, each an irreplaceable loss.

Even more troubling, suicide is on the rise among teens, vets, and law enforcement. Between 2001 and 2017, the suicide rate increased by 31 percent. That year, 2017, saw 1.4 million suicide attempts in this country.

These trends have many causes, and we must get to the bottom of them, but we can start saving lives today.

Congress recently passed the STOIC Act, and the President signed it into law. This bipartisan bill will fund suicide prevention programs for law enforcement, where deaths by suicide now outstrip line-of-duty deaths.

Gun safety legislation will also make a difference. Firearms kill 40,000 people each year, including 60 percent to suicide.

Background checks and red flag laws save lives, but the Senate and the President have refused to act. We must call out their absence of action. Our country needs them to stand up.

Our own colleague, Representative SUSAN WILD, recently lost her partner to suicide and has bravely described its devastating effects and now lifts her strong voice so that others will not suffer the same.

Madam Speaker, it is time for us to act.

#### CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR DEPUTY BRAD SULLIVAN

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, on September 5, 2019, the Madison County Sheriff's Department responded to a hostage situation near Canton, Mississippi.

Upon arrival, the suspect fled and led deputies on a high-speed chase throughout the northeastern part of the county before spike strips were deployed to stop the suspect's vehicle. Once immobilized, the suspect began to fire on deputies, striking two officers.

Deputy Brad Sullivan was shot multiple times as he arrived on the scene and was later transported to the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Deputy Sullivan remains in serious condition as our community unites with prayer, donations, and medical skill to save the life of this brave officer.

On behalf of Mississippi's Third Congressional District, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and respect for Deputy Sullivan, the other deputies who responded, and the entire Madison County Sheriff's Department.

We ask all Mississippians to continue to pray for Brad's recovery and for God's hand of protection on all our law enforcement officers.

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#### FIRE DANGER MITIGATION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to commend Vicki Christiansen, the Forest Service Chief, for proposing a new rule to add to our fire danger mitigation that we need to do in California and across the West.

Building upon my bill from a year and a half ago, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act, this allows the streamlining of the process to clear trees and brush, et cetera, around power lines, that make it a fire hazard.

We have certainly suffered enough fire loss in California. I had the Camp fire right in my own district, the Carr fire last year as well and, this year, already 54,000 acres burned in Plumas County.

As it is right now, our utilities have a hard time being able to get out and do the work because the permit process can be difficult. So they resort to lately, right in the middle of my district, what is known as the public safety power shutoff as a precaution, with the wind conditions and heat perhaps being able to cause additional wildfire.

We shouldn't put the utilities in that position of being cursed if they do or cursed if they don't for a possible fire. We need to get the work done around the power lines. So I hope this rule put through by the U.S. Forest Service will help us accomplish that.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus to speak to this body about the issues that are important to Americans, everyday Americans.

The Congressional Black Caucus is the conscience of the Congress, and we feel that it is our responsibility in our Special Order Hours to address those issues and concerns that are of most importance to the people of America. We represent 70 million Americans in our caucus, 55 Members strong, and we are using this time to address this Congress on the issues of agriculture and the Black community.

Agriculture and the Black community, it is more than just SNAP for us.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I come before you as the chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.

Madam Speaker, I rise at this moment to speak out against the United States Department of Agriculture's food and nutrition service proposed rule to change the eligibility requirements for SNAP; and let me tell you why, Madam Speaker.

It is because this proposed rule, number one, it would eliminate broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP, and effectively end all SNAP benefits for more than 3 million seniors, veterans, working families with children, and individuals with disabilities.

Current eligibility simply allows low-income families and children to receive SNAP benefits if they have already qualified for other anti-poverty programs. That's it.

But, Madam Speaker, in fiscal year 2016 alone, over 10,000 Georgia households were helped to meet their basic needs as a direct result of current eligibility.

This proposed change is founded upon an unfortunately common, but incorrect assumption of "bad actors" wasting government funds. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is not about that.

In reality, these programs have proven to both encourage work and increase savings in order to transition out of the program.



Madam Speaker, millions of Americans are just one lost job, just one health crisis, or another emergency, maybe the bread winner passed on. These things happen unexpectedly and any other emergency issues that may arise, it keeps them from becoming food insecure.

Madam Speaker, there are a lot of things that we can do without, but food we cannot ever do without. So it is up to us Members of Congress to look out for the most vulnerable among us.

If implemented, this rule would not only remove food from the tables of Americans, but also reduce their potential for economic success and financial security.

Ultimately, eliminating the ability of States to use categorical eligibility would mean jeopardizing the very futures of many hardworking Americans. So I urge my colleagues to join us within the Black Caucus—it is about all of us—and speak out against this proposed change in order to protect the health and well-being of all of our American people.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that enlightening information that he has shared with us. We know that the years of experience and seniority that the gentleman has gained on the Agriculture Committee have given him not only a passion, but a real understanding of the issues that are important, not only to Americans who utilize SNAP, but to those farmers and those in our agricultural community who are supportive of the things that we are trying to push forward and that this administration is, in fact, trying to impede.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, that is correct. And that is why we are here tonight, with great compassion, with great fairness, asking our Members of Congress, on a unanimous basis, to join in this fight.

It is not just our fight. This is a fight that appeals to the basic nature and purpose of the American people. That is us. And I appreciate the gentlewoman inviting me to share in making this appeal.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I think of all the money that America spends on foreign aid, foreign food programs; and the fact that we, as Americans, are squabbling over feeding our own, of providing nutrition and assistance to those families, to veterans, to our elders, to our children who need these programs, it is astounding that we even have to have this conversation.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the gentlewoman is right. And I leave you with the words, the eloquent words, of Thomas Jefferson when he gave us the meaning of our great Nation: "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

One thing is for certain, we can't be happy without food because we can't live without food. There is no greater meaning for the implementation of Thomas Jefferson's words: "Life, lib-

erty, and the pursuit of happiness." That means food.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, as you can see, I am here alongside my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus in strong opposition to the administration's proposal to severely restrict broad-based categorical eligibility, or cat-el.

This rule would kick millions of people struggling with hunger from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, most commonly known as SNAP, as well as approximately 250,000 children from preschool meals; 250,000 children who rely on this program to provide them with lunch, with breakfast, allowing them to be able to utilize their skills in school, allowing them to be able to learn on a daily basis.

Many of these children, we know, without this program are unable to eat, are unable to be able to stay awake in school because of the hunger that is within them, right here in this country. And so we are fighting to make sure that those children are not removed; that those millions of Americans are not removed from this program.

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move toward self-sufficiency; providing food assistance that averages just \$1.40 per person per meal, \$1.40 per meal.

SNAP is a modest benefit, with nearly half of the participants running out of benefits before the end of the month. If anything, policymakers should be debating how much to increase this supplemental benefit, given that there is no room for cuts.

What's more, Trump's tax law gave more in tax breaks to the top 1 percent than SNAP costs in its entirety. And if the Trump administration is looking for strategies to achieve savings in SNAP, while actually helping workers, it need look no further than raising the Federal minimum wage. Raising the Federal minimum wage to \$12, not even the \$15 proposed in the Raise the Wage Act, would save \$53 billion over the next 10 years, nearly four times as much as the proposed rule, by ensuring that workers earn more so that they are better able to afford food, instead of punishing labor market struggles with hunger.

The Trump administration's proposed rule would recalculate how we measure poverty, a move that would more than likely result in reducing the eligibility criteria for individuals and removing people off certain Federal programs that are meant to assist poor and low-income families.

Recently, the Trump administration proposed a rule that would recalculate how we measure poverty, a move that would more than likely result in reducing the eligibility criteria for individuals and removing people off certain Federal programs that are meant to assist poor and low-income families.

The proposed rule would change how the Census measures poverty in a man-

ner that will artificially drive down the number of people counted as officially poor. Because eligibility for a range of basic supports is calculated based on the poverty threshold, each year, as costs go up, many working people with low pay would gradually be stripped of SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, parts of Medicare, Head Start, school lunch, legal services, even tax credits under the Affordable Care Act.

In my own district, due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services Division of Family Assistance executed Disaster SNAP, D-SNAP, and regular SNAP simultaneously. The Virgin Islands provided this Disaster SNAP to approximately 30,000 households, and SNAP to approximately 29,000 households.

There are approximately now 22,000 people on SNAP in the Virgin Islands, where we have a 33 percent child poverty rate.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, and a conferee on the 2018 farm bill, I am proud of the work we did on that bill. This proposal flies in the face of everything we worked on to build a bipartisan bill, a bipartisan consensus around the process of SNAP, and the funding, and the support we recognize that American families need.

House Democrats and our colleagues in the Senate expressly rejected changes to cat-el; the end result was the most overwhelmingly bipartisan farm bill in history. This is only an attempt by an ideological White House at an end-run around congressional intent. The White House is trying to take away the authority of this body, and we will not stand by and allow that to happen.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who has worked extensively on this issue, as well as poverty issues and issues on how to increase healthcare benefits to American families. I yield to the gentleman to speak about those issues.

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Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands for yielding and for her continued leadership on issues that impact Americans throughout the diaspora and also issues that the CBC finds necessary to continue to raise. We are known as the conscience of the Congress, and although we are the Congressional Black Caucus, we represent 78 million Americans of all stripes. That is something that I think is very important for people to understand.

I am not surprised that the gentlewoman once again has raised an issue for the caucus that impacts so many people in this Nation and, if President Trump has his way, negatively impacts so many people in this Nation.

I am very concerned about Trump's latest attack on low-income Americans. His administration would like to make drastic changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,

or SNAP. The program, which used to be called food stamps, has helped millions of working parents, disabled Americans, and seniors afford a more nutritional diet.

Traditionally, SNAP benefits were assigned based on a standard income level. If you made less than 130 percent of the Federal poverty level, roughly \$2,300 per month, you were eligible. If you made more than that, you were not. However, there was an important clause in how the State governments assessed that income.

If you had a more prosperous year, say you made an extra \$100 or \$200 per month thanks to a side job, you could still be eligible for the benefits. States knew that such income might be temporary, and they did not want to punish hardworking Americans for seeking a better life.

The system worked because it encouraged nutritious eating for lower income citizens, a group that studies show have less nutritious diets across the board. And it allowed them to save a little money for the future.

In addition, it saved time because it allowed recipients to enroll automatically and provided a new market for American farm products. It was a win-win for everyone involved.

So, naturally, Trump wants to change that. He wants to impose a hard cap on the income levels for recipients, and he wants to eliminate eligibility for people with more than \$2,300 in a bank account.

If the rule is enacted, it could be disastrous for our country's lower income workers, disabled citizens, and the elderly. Millions of them could lose their benefits and return to unhealthy eating, because that is all they would be able to afford.

Study after study shows the costs to our Nation's healthcare from patients with poor diets. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that unhealthy eating costs about \$1 trillion, with a T, per year in extra healthcare and contributes to the death of almost 700,000 citizens annually, the size of a congressional district. These are costs we do not need, especially at a time when many economists say a recession is looming.

There are several other problems with this proposed rule. It promotes the belief that lower income Americans should stay lower income because it punishes people who want to save a little money. If you save too much, you could lose your benefits.

The greatest harm would be done to innocent schoolchildren. The free school meal programs across the country use SNAP eligibility to determine whether children can qualify for the meals. If their parents get eliminated from the system, at least 265,000 students could go hungry during the school day. If they lose those meals, academic studies show that their performance in school will drop significantly. You cannot think about math when you are thinking about an empty

stomach. They will have lower standardized test scores, and they are more likely to come to school late, if they come at all.

These children feel the shame of being in the Free and Reduced Meal Program already. This rule would reduce that shame by making sure they do not have any meals at all.

These are students who need support the most, so we need to support them the most. What we do not need are rules designed to keep them in poverty from an administration dedicated to enriching the wealthy and themselves.

We need to give States the freedom to assess their SNAP eligibility in a way that empowers them to empower their citizens. We need to promote healthy living with proper diet and nutrition choices. We need to protect our schoolchildren and do everything possible to make sure that they get every educational benefit possible.

That is why we need to fight this proposed rule change to the SNAP program.

Our farmers are struggling, thanks to Trump's trade wars, and our students are struggling from inequality already. We do not need to make both of those problems worse.

We are mortified but not surprised by the actions of a callous administration toward people of need. It is not surprising that the administration has looked into how it could once again penalize poor people, struggling children, and the elderly, who have paid their dues, played by the rules, and now need a little assistance, but they just don't matter.

This is not the country I was led to believe that I was growing up in. This is not what I learned in school. What we see here is a disassembling of a nation. Everything that we have stood for is falling apart around us because of this President and his administration.

We will continue to fight. I think our Nation is stronger than one man. We will come together as a great Nation once again and take care of the least of us. It is our obligation.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the great information, the statistics, the science that is there that explains to us what happens when SNAP is denied to young people, as well as his heartfelt words about where our Nation is going when we are unable to feed our own.

I have some remarks from another Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, who is the chairperson of the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations of the Agriculture Committee.

Madam Speaker, over 40 States and territories use broad-based categorical eligibility, or BBCE, to streamline the administration of SNAP and provide critical assistance to households receiving benefits and services through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant.

BBCE is proven to help millions of working poor families move toward fi-

nancial security by easing the benefits cliff as their earnings increase.

On July 24, 2019, USDA published a proposed rule to restrict the use of BBCE and eliminate SNAP benefits for an estimated 3.1 million Americans. This includes children, working families, military veterans, disabled individuals, and our seniors.

Most shameful is the proposal's impact on hungry school-age children. By USDA's own estimates, the new policy would take away direct access to free school meals for at least 500,000 schoolchildren. Nearly half a million children would be left to go hungry during the school day, shifting the burden to strapped school districts.

In her State of Ohio, according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, over 61,000 SNAP households would lose their benefits. USDA reports that, in 2017, the prevalence of food insecurity among those in Ohio was higher than the national average. 13.7 percent of Ohioans were food insecure in 2017 compared to 12.3 percent nationally.

Even USDA admits the proposed changes to SNAP would make food insecurity worse and make it hard for millions of Americans to get by. Most notably, it would remove the current flexibility for States and territories to use BBCE to tailor SNAP to best meet the food needs of their own populations.

Republicans love to talk about States' rights when it suits them, but when it comes to the flexibility of States to meet the needs of food-insecure populations, then they want something very different.

As the economy continues to leave working families and our most vulnerable behind, programs like SNAP are needed more than ever.

Congress already debated these issues. We came together and rejected this policy in both the 2014 and 2018 farm bills with a record bipartisan vote.

This proposed rule is shameful, cruel, and contrary to the will of Congress. This unilateral action by the administration only complicates legitimate bipartisan efforts to make programs like SNAP more effective and efficient for millions of people who rely on it to put food on the table.

I thank Congresswoman FUDGE for her remarks, and she will include the remainder of her remarks in the RECORD.

I would note that on May 22, 2019, I sent my own Governor of the Virgin Islands a letter reminding him of the need for us to speak out on the proposed rule that would recalculate how we measure poverty, a move that would make it more than likely to result in reducing the eligibility criteria for individuals and removing people off certain Federal programs that are meant to assist poor and low-income families. I include that letter in the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 22, 2019.  
Governor ALBERT BRYAN Jr.,  
Christiansted, VI.

GOVERNOR BRYAN: Recently, the Trump Administration proposed a rule that would recalculate how we measure poverty, a move that would more than likely result in reducing the eligibility criteria for individuals and removing people off certain federal programs that are meant to assist poor and low-income families.

The proposed rule would change how the Census measures poverty in a manner that that will artificially drive down the number of people counted as officially poor. Because eligibility for a range of basic supports is calculated based on the poverty threshold, each year as costs go up, many working people with low pay would gradually be stripped of SNAP (formerly food stamps), WIC, Medicaid, parts of Medicare, Head Start, school lunch, legal services, and even tax credits under the Affordable Care Act.

Due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services Division of Family Assistance executed both Disaster SNAP—D-SNAP—and regular SNAP simultaneously. The Virgin Islands provided D-SNAP to approximately 30,000 households and SNAP to approximately 29,000 households territory-wide. As a result, members of the community were able to purchase desperately needed food. There are now approximately 22,000 people on SNAP in the Virgin Islands.

This is an important a vital program for Virgin Islanders. There is a 45-day window to comment on the proposal and the deadline is June 21, 2019. I am requesting that the Government of the Virgin Islands submit its comment on the effect this rule will have on the residents of the Territory.

Sincerely,

STACEY E. PLASKETT,  
Member of Congress.

Ms. PLASKETT. I include in the RECORD letters from AARP, as well as the United States Conference of Mayors, that have written in during the comment period to speak out against and in opposition to the proposed rule changes by this administration.

AARP,

Washington, September 23, 2019.

Re FNS-2018-0037, Revision of Categorical Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

PROGRAM DESIGN BRANCH,  
Program Development Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Alexandria, VA.

AARP, on behalf of its nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, welcomes the opportunity to submit comments on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed rule to revise categorical eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Ensuring that older Americans experiencing food-related hardship have access to nutrition assistance is a priority for AARP. SNAP provides critical food assistance for millions of people, including 8.7 million households with at least one adult age 50 or older.

AARP BELIEVES THE PROPOSED REVISION TO CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY IN SNAP WILL HARM LOW INCOME SENIORS AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WITHDRAW ITS PROPOSAL.

We are deeply concerned that the Administration's proposal would harm older Americans' health and financial security. The proposed rule undermines the intent of SNAP to alleviate hunger and food insecurity among low-income households. Additionally, in an

attempt to restrict eligibility for SNAP, the proposed changes would make low-income households more financially vulnerable and more likely to rely on public benefit programs. According to USDA's regulatory impact analysis, the proposed rule may "negatively impact food security and reduce savings rates among those individuals who do not meet the income and resource eligibility requirements for SNAP or the substantial and ongoing requirements for expanded categorical eligibility." Similar efforts to limit broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE) in the House-passed version of the 2018 Farm Bill were ultimately rejected on a bipartisan basis.

USDA estimates that the proposed regulation would eliminate SNAP eligibility for 3.1 million people, disproportionately impacting households with one or more elderly individual(s). Households with elderly members represent more than one-third of the 1.7 million households the Administration estimates would lose SNAP eligibility; meanwhile, those households make up only 24 percent of current program participants. The eligibility cut would affect 13 percent of households with seniors, 7 percent of households with children, and 9 percent of households overall. Since the cuts would disproportionately harm elderly individuals, USDA determined that there is a potential for "civil rights impacts," which is alarming to AARP.

SNAP IS CRITICAL TO THE FOOD SECURITY AND HEALTH OF MILLIONS OF OLDER AMERICANS.

SNAP is the primary source of nutrition assistance for many people who are struggling to put food on the table. While the program provides a modest benefit (\$125 a month on average for households with members age 60 or older), it helps recipients meet their basic food needs. SNAP is an especially important program for older Americans because many face challenges to employment, live on fixed incomes, live alone, and have limited financial resources to spend on necessities like food, housing, and essential medicine.

Unfortunately, food insecurity among older Americans is already all too common. An estimated 5.5 million Americans age 60 and older were food insecure in 2017. Households with grandchildren are nearly three times as likely to be food insecure. The proposed rule would lead to even greater food insecurity among older Americans.

Older adults who are food insecure are at increased risk for many negative health outcomes. They are over twice as likely to report being in fair or poor health relative to older adults who are food-secure. Compared to food-secure older adults, they are also 53 percent more likely to report a heart attack, 52 percent more likely to develop asthma, 40 percent more likely to have congestive heart failure, 22 percent more likely to face limitations of Activities of Daily Living, and 60 percent more likely to experience depression.

Food insecurity among older adults also results in significant costs to the American public, particularly through increased expenditures on health care. Experts widely agree that nutrition is one of the most important factors influencing our health. SNAP participation has been linked to reduced hospital and nursing home admissions among older adults. Research examining older adults who were dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid in Maryland found that SNAP participants were 23 percent less likely to enter a nursing home and those dually enrolled were 4 percent less likely to be hospitalized in the year after receiving SNAP in comparison to nonparticipants. Enrolling the millions of seniors eligible but

not enrolled in SNAP could result in billions of dollars in health care savings.

BBCE ALLOWS LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS TO SAVE FOR EMERGENCIES AND BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT.

The law governing SNAP, determined by Congress, sets the income limit and asset limit for the program, and offers important options provided to state administrators. For more than 20 years, states have had the flexibility to lift the asset tests under SNAP allowing families to purchase groceries without having to spend down their limited savings. This allows them to maintain a cushion that can help them weather future financial emergencies caused by unexpected health emergencies, natural disasters, or an unforeseen job loss. A basic level of savings can prevent severe hardship as a result of a financial shock and can ultimately reduce the likelihood that a household will need public benefits like SNAP.

Currently, 23 states and jurisdictions using BBCE have no asset limit for SNAP. Under the proposed rule, states would lose this flexibility, and SNAP applicants would be held to the restrictive federal asset limits. Asset tests disqualify families and individuals from food assistance if they have managed to save as little as \$2,250—or \$3,500 for households with elderly or disabled members—who may struggle with replenishing any assets they spend down. This would discourage low-income households from accumulating small but meaningful assets, jeopardizing their financial security and making it more likely that they will need to turn to SNAP or other public assistance programs for support. A recent study found that BBCE increases the likelihood that a SNAP recipient has at least \$500 in a bank account by 8 percent. By allowing SNAP recipients to build a reasonable level of preventive savings under BBCE, households are more likely to set aside some money and become more self-sufficient.

THE PROPOSED RULE WOULD INCREASE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR STATES AND HOUSEHOLDS.

The rule would significantly limit states' flexibility and make eligibility for SNAP benefits more restrictive for people in 39 states, Washington D.C., Guam and the Virgin Islands. According to USDA, BBCE reduces administrative burdens for State agencies and households and particularly benefits working households. Under the proposed rule, 17.2 million households that remain eligible for SNAP, as well as new SNAP applicants, would face additional burdens associated with the application process. Research has demonstrated that policies that add burdens to SNAP participation contribute to a decline in program participation. Instead of increasing burdens on SNAP applicants, we call for changes that would make enrollment in SNAP easier and as seamless as possible. Application forms, procedures, and program notices should be shortened, simplified, and integrated with other government benefit programs. BBCE currently helps reduce the complexity of the SNAP application process and helps to improve state administration while lowering administrative costs.

Despite the benefits of SNAP, older adult participation rates in SNAP are the lowest of any age group. In FY 2017, 84 percent of all eligible individuals were enrolled in SNAP. However, only 48 percent of eligible elderly individuals were enrolled in the program, including just 29 percent of elderly individuals living with other people. A number of factors already keep eligible older Americans from receiving benefits, including the complicated and time-consuming application and enrollment processes. Processes that make enrollment and reporting easier and help overcome

the barriers that keep older Americans from accessing the food assistance they need are important for reducing food insecurity among older adults.

#### CONCLUSION

We are committed to reducing hunger and food insecurity among older Americans and therefore urge the Administration to withdraw its proposal. SNAP provides important nutritional support, promotes healthy aging, and is associated with reduced health care costs. The BBCE policy in particular also helps people save and improve their financial wellbeing. Instead of reducing eligibility for the program while increasing administrative burdens, we should be working to further strengthen SNAP and improve participation in the program, particularly among eligible older adults who underutilize the program more than any other age group. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

DAVID CERTNER,  
*Legislative Counsel  
and Legislative Policy  
Director, Government  
Affairs.*

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE  
OF MAYORS,  
*Washington, DC, September 23, 2019.*

Ms. JESSICA SHAHIN,  
*Associate Administrator, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Program Design Branch, Program Development Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Alexandria, VA.*

DEAR ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR SHAHIN: On behalf of the US Conference of Mayors (USCM), we are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed revision of “broad based categorical eligibility” in USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) published in the Federal Register on July 23, 2019. As noted in the proposal’s regulatory analysis, this far reaching executive action will escalate food insecurity and hunger for an estimated 3.1 million individuals—including children, seniors, and people with disabilities in our states, regions and cities nationwide. Furthermore, this proposal will put children’s health and development at risk by removing their access to healthy school meals; and harm our economy by reducing the amount of SNAP dollars available to spur regional and local economic activity.

As Mayors, we serve as the CEOs of the nation’s cities; and remain most concerned about any proposal that will reduce improvements to the health of our residents, weaken nutrition programs, deteriorate advances to healthy food access, and spur declines in local and regional economies. USCM has supported and adopted policies over many years to eliminate hunger, combat food insecurity and improve health disparities to build a stronger society for all residents in our communities. Equally, we have vigorously opposed the proposed revision of broad based categorical eligibility of USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and rejected this proposal most recently throughout deliberation of the Farm Bill in 2018.

SNAP remains one of our nations’ key resources in the fight against hunger and is particularly important to vulnerable populations in our cities. For instance, 80 percent of SNAP households include a child, an elderly person, or a person with disabilities; and 85 percent of all SNAP benefits go to such households. Furthermore, SNAP is not only a critical resource in the fight against hunger and food insecurity, but also lifts people out of poverty. Per the 2017 Supple-

mental Poverty Measure Report, SNAP lifted 3.4 million people—including 1.5 million children out of poverty in 2017. So, we stand united and reject any proposal to restrict eligibility to vulnerable adults, children, seniors, and people with disabilities in our cities.

Research has found that receipt of SNAP in early childhood improved high school graduation rates, adult earnings, and adult health. Mayors recognize that solving child hunger and poverty is critically important to also creating a future where all children thrive. Regular access to healthy and affordable meals is one of the strongest predictors of improved school performance, better health, and sound childhood development.

Lastly, the proposed rule will harm local and regional economies, as it is well documented that the economic gains from public benefits are even greater than the volume of direct assistance due to a “multiplier” effect. USDA has estimated that during times of economic downturn, every additional \$5 dollars in SNAP benefits generates up to \$9 dollars of economic activity, and every \$1 billion increase in SNAP benefits results in 8,900 full-time equivalent jobs.

Executive action should not be used to hurt individuals, families and communities; and we urge you to abandon this proposal. Our nation cannot remain globally competitive if our children do not have enough to eat; if our citizens do not have access to affordable health care; if housing and other basic needs are priced out of reach; and if adults who are willing and able to work cannot find jobs that will help them support their families.

Sincerely,

Levar Stoney, Mayor of Richmond, VA, Chair, Children, Health, and Human Services Standing Committee; Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville, KY, Vice President; Hardie Davis Jr., Mayor of Augusta, GA; Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of Berkeley, CA; Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston, MA; Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, DC, Co-Chair, Food Policy Task Force; Nan Whaley, Mayor of Dayton, OH, Second Vice President; Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin, TX; John A. Mirisch, Mayor of Beverly Hills, CA; Byron W. Brown, Mayor of Buffalo, NY.

Bernard “Jack” Young, Mayor of Baltimore, MD, Co-Chair, Food Policy Task Force; Steve Benjamin, Mayor of Columbia, SC, Past President; Denny Doyle, Mayor of Beaverton, OR; Michael J. Venezia, Mayor of Bloomfield, NJ; Dave Palmer, Mayor of Butte, MT; Pam Hemminger, Mayor of Chapel Hill, NC; Patrick L. Wojahn, Mayor of College Park, MD; Steve Schewel, Mayor of Durham, NC; Lily Mei, Mayor of Fremont, CA; Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor of Kalamazoo, MI.

David J. Berger, Mayor of Lima, OH; Robert A.B. Reichert, Mayor of Macon, GA; Steve Gawron, Mayor of Muskegon, MI; Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York, NY; Francis ‘Mac’ Womack III, Mayor of North Brunswick NJ; Adrian O. Mapp, Mayor of Plainfield, NJ; Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor of Providence, RI; Lovely A. Warren, Mayor of Rochester, NY; Pauline Russo Cutter, Mayor of San Leandro, CA; John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor of Charleston, SC.

Eric Johnson, Mayor of Dallas, TX; James B. Hovland, Mayor of Edina, MN; Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston, TX; Donatario ‘Don’ Hardy, Mayor of Kinston, NC; John P. Marchand, Mayor of Livermore, CA; Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor of Madison, WI; Jill Techel, Mayor of Napa, CA; McKinley L. Price DDS, Mayor of Newport News, VA; Jim Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia, PA; Rex Hardin, Mayor of Pompano Beach, FL.

Hillary Shieve, Mayor of Reno, NV; Jackie Biskupski, Mayor of Salt Lake City, UT; Alan Webber, Mayor of Santa Fe, NM; Mary

Casillas Salas, Mayor of Chula Vista, CA; Michael B. Hancock, Mayor of Denver, CO; Lionel Jordan, Mayor of Fayetteville, AK; Steve Williams, Mayor of Huntington, WV; Kenneth D. Miyagishima, Mayor of Las Cruces, NM; Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA; Jacob Frey, Mayor of Minneapolis, MN.

David Briley, Mayor of Nashville, TN; Chris Koos, Mayor of Normal, IL; Brian C. Wahler, Mayor of Piscataway, NJ; Ted Wheeler, Mayor of Portland, OR; Thomas K. Butt, Mayor of Richmond, CA; Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio; Gleam Davis, Mayor of Santa Monica, CA; Gary R. McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady, NY; Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend, IN; Michael D. Tubbs, Mayor of Stockton, CA.

Michelle De La Isla, Mayor of Topeka, KS; Thomas M. Roach, Mayor of White Plains, NY; David J. Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton, MA; Alex B. Morse III, Mayor of Holyoke, MA; William C. Reichert, Mayor of West Springfield, MA; Michael M. Vargas, Mayor of Perris, CA; Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor of Easthampton, MA; Margarita L. Rios, Mayor of Norwalk, CA; Tim Sandoval, Mayor of Pomona, CA; Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor of Seattle, WA.

William ‘Bill’ Edwards, Mayor of South Fulton, GA; Victoria Woodards, Mayor of Tacoma, WA; Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor of Tucson, AZ; Cassie Franklin, Mayor of Everett, WA; William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA; Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor of Greenbelt, MD; Andy Schor, Mayor of Lansing, MI; Ian Bain, Mayor of Redwood City, CA, Mayor of Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Mayor of National City, CA; Teresa Barrett, Mayor of Petaluma, CA.

Peter Weiss, Mayor of Oceanside, CA; Jeffrey Z. Slavin, Mayor of Somerset, MD; Lyda Krewson, Mayor of St. Louis, MO; Mark W. Mitchell, Mayor of Tempe, AZ; Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Mayor of Union City, CA; Hazelle Rogers, Mayor of Lauderdale Lakes, FL; Kate Gallego, Mayor of Phoenix, AZ; Thomas W. Bernard, Mayor of North Adams, MA; Adele Andrade-Stadler, Mayor of Alhambra, CA; Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor of Newton, MA.

Martine Watkins, Mayor of Santa Cruz, CA; Petrella Robinson, Mayor of North Brentwood, MD; Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach, CA.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands has 32 minutes remaining.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, President Trump’s latest attempt to slash SNAP would be harmful to Americans across the country, but certain communities face particular risks. Six of the groups that Trump’s proposed rules would hit hardest include rural communities, Black and Latinx America, people with disabilities, people with criminal records who are trying to move on, those in the LGBTQ community, and women.

Given that 76 percent of rural adults report that good jobs are scarce in their areas, rural communities will be among the hardest hit by Trump’s proposed rule, as it would tie States’ hands and remove the flexibility they need to help residents of high-unemployment areas put food on the table.

Indeed, while urban areas experienced a net gain of 3.6 million jobs from 2007 to 2015, rural areas lost 400,000 jobs during that time, meaning

that many rural areas have struggled to recover from the Great Recession.

□ 2000

Additionally, Black and Hispanic households are especially likely to be food insecure and thus disproportionately rely on SNAP to help them meet basic needs, accounting for about 30 percent, and nearly 20 percent of SNAP benefits in 2016, respectively.

This is due in large part to the systematic barriers that African Americans and Latinx Americans face to building wealth, purchasing homes, accessing education, and escaping poverty.

Poverty rates in these communities are more than double those of White Americans, and the Black unemployment rate is still more than twice that of White workers, despite what is spoken of in the White House. In 2016, Black Americans' median wealth was only \$13,460, compared with \$142,000 for White Americans.

People with disabilities:

The proposed rule purports to apply only to "able-bodied adults without dependents." What does that mean? Many of the more than 11 million people with disabilities who receive SNAP assistance could lose that assistance under the rule, as people who face limited work capacity due to disability or poor health are regularly misclassified as able-bodied for the purposes of SNAP.

In fact, based on analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the author estimates that 12 percent of SNAP recipients ages 18 to 59 have at least one physical, functional, or work limitation but are not counted as disabled under SNAP.

People with criminal records:

The proposed rule particularly harms people who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Nearly nine in ten employers use criminal background checks in hiring. This means that even an old, minor criminal record can serve as a life sentence to poverty and joblessness. As a result, the unemployment rate among formerly incarcerated individuals is approximately 27 percent. What is more, one study shows that 60 percent of formerly incarcerated individuals remain unemployed 1 year following their release.

By helping people put food on the table while they get back on their feet, SNAP is a powerful tool for supporting reentry and preventing recidivism. In fact, one study shows that when formerly incarcerated people are subjected to harsher SNAP requirements, compounded by the substantial barriers they already face, recidivism rates increase.

Taking SNAP away from workers as they struggle to rebuild their lives and reenter the labor market would thus directly undercut the bipartisan gains that the President and Congress say they support in the FIRST STEP Act.

The LGBTQ people:

Trump's proposed rule would also be particularly burdensome for the

LGBTQ community. According to a 2017 nationally representative CAP survey, LGBTQ people are more than twice as likely as non-LGBTQ people to receive SNAP benefits, with 26 percent of LGBTQ women and 18 percent of men reporting that they or their families received SNAP.

The disproportionate receipt of benefits is just one reason that this rule would be particularly burdensome for the LGBTQ community. The rule would especially harm workers because they are especially likely to face labor market barriers that make it more difficult for them to find employment.

Women:

Women make up two-thirds of the low-wage workforce, making them especially likely to face the unstable schedules that would be punished by the Trump proposal's punitive time limits.

In addition to the challenges of low-wage work, women are disproportionately likely to be caregivers, including caring for people who may not be considered dependents under Trump's proposed SNAP rule. For example, women are literally 1.4 times more likely than men to provide unpaid care and help to people who live outside of their home.

While women struggle to manage the challenges of unstable low-wage work and caregiving, they are also more likely to face workplace discrimination than men. For example, nearly 36 percent of women who filed sexual harassment charges from 2012 to 2016 claimed that they faced retaliation as a result, such as their employers forcing them out of their jobs or reducing their hours. Therefore, women who face discrimination may be more likely to be subject to the proposed rule.

African Americans on average have the lowest household incomes among all racial/ethnic groups except Native Americans. The poverty rate for African Americans is almost two times greater than the general U.S. population. These are, in fact, issues that we all face and should be aware of.

SNAP is a powerful anti-poverty program for all people. In a typical month in 2017, SNAP helped about 13 million African Americans put sufficient food on the table. Its benefits lifted about 2.1 million African Americans, including 1 million children, above the poverty line in 2015. SNAP also kept 1.2 million African Americans out of deep poverty—above half of the poverty line—that year.

Approximately \$20 billion in SNAP benefits, about 30 percent of the total, went to African American households in fiscal year 2016.

On average, African American households that participate in SNAP receive \$260 in SNAP each month, just \$260.

A typical participating African American family of three has an average monthly income of \$940, or 56 percent of the poverty line. When their \$390 SNAP benefit, the average for a family of three, is added to their cash income, total monthly income rises by 29 percent, to \$1,330.

But this is just an example of what this administration is doing. One, going against what this Congress has already proposed and agreed to, bipartisan support, getting something across the line, bringing it to the President's desk, he signs it, and then through the administration, agencies, or executive order, attempting to slash at the authority of this body, of this first branch of government, who in fact, makes laws.

I know that firsthand, as that is exactly what is happening right now in the Virgin Islands with the disaster relief funding that this body came up with.

We recall that this body decided that it was, in fact, going to give the territories money for disaster relief, and now we are facing FEMA guidance delays on new resiliency and rebuilding provisions.

Additionally, FEMA denying local administration of FEMA permanent housing reconstruction programs; FEMA not willing to advance funding for major recovery projects, taking too long to improve major worksheets; HUD delaying releasing CDBG recovery funding and segregating it from the rest of the country; action plan for unmet needs was approved on March 1, but still no grant agreement 6 months later, 2 years after the hurricanes; FEMA administrations denying cost share waivers on FEMA aid, which was given to the Katrina area; refusal to exercise clear statutory authority to do this for the Virgin Islands.

This is what this administration appears to be doing: allowing Congress to come up with bipartisan legislation, whether it be SNAP, assistance to farmers, food programs, disaster relief, having bipartisan support in both chambers, getting it across the line, signing it and then undercutting it, undermining this body, undermining the democratic process that is in place. We must do something about it.

In January of 1865, when Union General William T. Sherman issued an order to allocate 40 acres to each freedman, the Black ministers who lobbied for the policy envisioned vibrant, self-governed Black agrarian communities dotting the southern countryside. Unfortunately, President Andrew Johnson's revocation of this order later that year and the institution of the Jim Crow regime after reconstruction left rural Black Americans to build their farming communities from scratch.

It wouldn't be the first time the U.S. Government worked to undermine Black farmers, and it certainly wasn't the last. We are seeing that even today.

Yet, even in the face of broken promises, not to mention the violence and discrimination aimed at Black farmers and Black Americans by White landowners and lenders, those farms secured a foothold in American agriculture.

At the height of Black farming in 1920, Black farmers operated 925,710 farms, about one-seventh of all farm

operations in the United States. Today, going from one-seventh, as of 2012, Black farmers make up less than 2 percent of all farmers.

In the Virgin Islands, we recognize this. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a long and well-documented history of discrimination against Black farmers. The unequal administration of government farm support programs, crucial to protecting farmers from an inherently risky enterprise, has had a profound impact on rural communities of color.

We have got to stay on this administration to make sure that all Americans have a fair shot, not only at food and food security through SNAP, but also to ensure that those farmers, American farmers, particularly minority farmers, have a fair shot at being part of that food production.

We know that in the Virgin Islands, our farmers farm very small acreages of land, but we are hoping and looking for the support of the USDA to live up to their example and the ideal that they are there to support farmers, not to undermine them; they are there to support not just the commodities, but to those specialty crop workers, those smaller farmers who are providing food and sustenance to Americans here in this country.

We know that fresh food is the best food for our children as part of the school lunch program, and we must expand support for the farm-to-the-schoolroom programs, those programs that allow local farmers to be the ones to provide the food for those school programs that are in place, and not allow the administration to undercut any part of the process.

We know that the Congressional Black Caucus will be vigilant at ensuring that this administration does not cross the line, and we will be vigilant at bringing to the American people the message that this Congress will not sit back and allow any administration, Democrat, Republican, anybody, to shirk their responsibility to the American people.

As the conscience of the Congress, that is our charge, and we will continue to do that work.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman

PLASKETT for anchoring this Special Order on support of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

I want to express my significant concerns with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed rule to change the determination qualifications for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Currently, nearly 36 million people receive monthly SNAP benefits.

To be eligible for assistance, gross monthly income must be at or below 130 percent of the poverty line.

44.4 percent of residents in Houston live at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty line.

In the Houston metropolitan area households with children, 19.3 percent struggled against food hardships in 2014–2015.

In February of 2018, SNAP served 304,542 households in Houston, bringing in \$82,374,563 of 100 percent federally funded benefits, generating approximately \$147.5 million in economic activity.

In Harris County alone, 599,928 people are eligible for SNAP benefits.

In August of 2019 Harris County received a total of \$70.9 million in totally SNAP payments.

As a result of the proposal 3 million people may lose their eligibility for food assistance.

States currently have the flexibility to not cut off benefits as soon as a family's gross income exceeds a certain level, but to more slowly phase out the food aid.

This is to ensure that those who are at or slightly above the poverty line do not risk falling below that line.

Additionally, these benefits reduce food insecurity and help alleviate poverty.

The proposed changes would limit this and cause many families to be abruptly cut off.

The new proposal jeopardizes access to free school meals for 500,000 low-income students.

Not only does this significantly affect families but also retired populations that rely on a fixed income.

This would adversely affect food banks around the nation as people look for food elsewhere.

Forcing families to choose between placing food on the table and covering other important expenses is unacceptable.

This proposal shows the Republicans' special interest agenda that gives billion-dollar handouts to big corporations and the wealthy few, and then steals from children, veterans, seniors and working families to make up the difference.

It is both cruel and counterproductive, ignoring the positives that SNAP puts into the

economy by creating \$1.79 for every dollar in benefits.

This proposed rule change does not help and support low-income individuals and families meet their basic human needs.

The current Administration is rejecting the overwhelmingly bipartisan passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, which made smart improvements that strengthened the safety net for food-insecure families.

This Administration must commit to implementing the bipartisan agreement to make anti-hunger initiatives more effective.

House Democrats will always stand firm for the health, well-being and dignity of America's working families, and will continue to advance our For The People agenda to deliver lower health care costs, bigger paychecks and cleaner government that fights for the public interests, not the special interests.

Thus, I urge the administration to reconsider this proposal and look at the adverse effects that it will have on our society.

#### 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. 1340. An act to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### 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. 1058. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2229, the First Responders Passport Act of 2019, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

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. 3190, the BURMA Act of 2019, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 3190

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	0	0	-1	-2	-3	-3	-3	-6	-7	-5	-2	-9	-32

Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact

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:

2227. A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Revisions to the Administrative Match Requirement [FNS-2019-0031] (RIN: 0584-AE74) received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2228. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Jerry D. Harris, Jr., United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2229. A letter from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Appendix A, Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, Part 1-Charter [Docket: DARS-2019-0058] (RIN: 0750-AK73) received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2230. A letter from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause "Release of Past Infringement" (DFARS Case 2019-D012) [Docket: DARS-2019-0049] (RIN: 0750-AK49) received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2231. A letter from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause "Reporting and Payment of Royalties" (DFARS Case 2019-D018) [Docket: DARS-2019-0045] (RIN: 0750-AK55) received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2232. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the National Health Service Corps Report to Congress for the Year 2018, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 254i; July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 336A (as amended by Public Law 107-251, Sec. 307(b)); (116 Stat. 1649); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2233. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of

Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-43, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2234. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-33, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2235. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-24, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2236. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 08-19, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2237. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 07-19, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2238. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-25, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2239. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-016, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2240. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 18-108, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2241. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nicaragua Sanctions Regulations received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2242. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, 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.

2243. A letter from the Director, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a notification of two (2) a vacancy, a designation of acting officer, an action on nomination, and a discontinuation of service in act-

ing role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2244. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2019-06 [Docket No.: FAR-2019-0001, Sequence No.: 5] received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2245. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Use of Products and Services of Kaspersky Lab [FAC 2019-06; FAR Case 2018-010; Item I; Docket No.: FAR-2018-0010, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN64) received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2246. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Update of "Affiliates" and Section 8(a) Clauses [FAC 2019-06; FAR Case 2019-006; Item II; Docket No.: FAR-2019-0006, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN89) received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2247. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Update to Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) [FAC 2019-06; FAR Case 2019-005; Item III; Docket No.: FAR-2019-0005, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN88) received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2248. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: New World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement Country-Australia [FAC 2019-06; FAR Case 2019-011; Item IV; Docket No.: FAR-2019-0011; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN93) received September 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2249. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's inventories of inherently governmental activities performed by federal employees for Fiscal Year 2019, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2250. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Privacy and Civil Liberties Activities First Semi-Annual Report for FY

2018, covering October 1, 2017 — March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2251. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Privacy and Civil Liberties Activities Second Semi-Annual Report for FY 2017 covering the period April 1, 2017 — September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2252. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Privacy and Civil Liberties Activities First Semi-Annual Report for FY 2017, covering October 1, 2016 — March 31, 2017; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2253. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting a report titled, "Department of Justice Activities Under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act Fiscal Year 2018", pursuant to 24 U.S.C. 1997f; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2254. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Homewood Wedding Fireworks Display, Lake Tahoe, Homewood, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2019-0603] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 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.

2255. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Delaware Bay, Lewes, DE to Cape May, NJ [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0542] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 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.

2256. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0694] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 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.

2257. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Point Pleasant, WV [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0665] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 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.

2258. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Delaware River; Baker Range, DE and NJ [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0238] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 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.

2259. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Newburgh, IN [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0591] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 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.

2260. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Tennessee River, Kentucky Dam Marina Fireworks, Gilbertsville, KY [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0662] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 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.

2261. A letter from the Attorney, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Bronx River, Bronx, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2019-0442] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received September 10, 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.

2262. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Lafitte, LA [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0718] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 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.

2263. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Portsmouth, OH [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0552] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 10, 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.

2264. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Security Zone; Los Angeles Fleet Week, San Pedro, California [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0589] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received September 10, 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.

2265. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Corps' Southwest Coastal Louisiana Integrated Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for April 2016 (H. Doc. No. 116-69); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

2266. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2018 Methane Hydrate Program Report to Congress, pursuant to 30 U.S.C. 2003(e)(5); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 968(e)(5); (119 Stat. 897); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

2267. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, transmitting the Annual Report on Awards and Settlements for Calendar Year 2019 for Employing Offices of the House of Representatives and for Employing Offices other than Employing Offices of the House of Representatives or the Senate, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1381(1)(1)(A); Public Law 104-1, title III, 301(1)(1)(A) (as added by 201(a)(1)(B)); (132 Stat. 5315); jointly to the Committees on Education and Labor and House Administration.

2268. A letter from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 30107(d)(1); Public Law 92-225, Sec. 307 (as added by Public Law 93-443, Sec. 208(a)); (88 Stat. 1283); jointly to the Committees on House Administration, Appropriations, and Oversight and Reform.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2781. A bill to amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-214). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2296. A bill to require reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 116-215). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 728. A bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-216). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 577. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2203) to increase transparency, accountability, and community engagement within the Department of Homeland Security, provide independent oversight of border security activities, improve training for agents and officers of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3525) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish uniform processes for medical screening of individuals interdicted between ports of entry, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 576) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the whistleblower complaint of August 12, 2019, made to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community; and for other purposes (Rept. 116-217). 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 Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 4457. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for additional preventive care for individuals with chronic conditions without the imposition of cost sharing requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 4458. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to issue reports on cybersecurity with respect to the functions of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.



By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 4459. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being used to purchase communications equipment or services posing national security risks, to provide for the establishment of a reimbursement program for the replacement of communications equipment or services posing such risks, 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 Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire:

H.R. 4460. A bill to provide funding for programs and activities under the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Oversight and Reform, Education and Labor, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KINZINGER (for himself and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4461. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a program to share information regarding supply chain security risks with trusted providers of advanced communications service and trusted suppliers of communications equipment or services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 4462. A bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to provide for the establishment of an electromagnetic spectrum sharing research and development program and an integrated spectrum automation enterprise strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. WALBERG (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 4463. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in international communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Miss RICE of New York, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 4464. A bill to establish the use of ranked choice voting in elections for the offices of Senator and Representative in Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 4465. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow local educational agencies to use certain grant funds provided through the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program for school security measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4466. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to make improvements to the food safety education program carried out under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 4467. A bill to require the Attorney General to make competitive grants to State, Tribal, and local governments to establish and maintain witness protection and assistance programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 4468. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act with respect to nursing facility requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HAGEDORN (for himself, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 4469. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit 529 plans to be used for certain non-degree technical training certificate programs and apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. RYAN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 4470. A bill to rename the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 4471. A bill to amend title XX of the Social Security Act to provide grants to support job creation initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 4472. A bill to eliminate the requirement that, to be eligible for foster care maintenance payments, a child would have been eligible for aid under the former program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children at the time of removal from the home; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 4473. A bill to reauthorize the Assets for Independence Act, to provide for the approval of applications to operate new demonstration programs and to renew existing programs, to enhance program flexibility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 4474. A bill to discourage the use of payment of money as a condition of pretrial release in criminal cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MALINOWSKI:

H.R. 4475. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to determine the expenditures of an institution of higher education on instruction, student services, marketing, recruitment, advertising, and lobbying, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.R. 4476. A bill to amend securities, commodities, and banking laws to make the information reported to financial regulatory agencies electronically searchable, to fur-

ther enable the development of RegTech and Artificial Intelligence applications, to put the United States on a path towards building a comprehensive Standard Business Reporting program to ultimately harmonize and reduce the private sector's regulatory compliance burden, while enhancing transparency and accountability and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 4477. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan to address certain high risk areas identified by the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 2019 High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 4478. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to remove barriers for students seeking Federal financial aid by reducing the complexity and length of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and increasing support for working students and vulnerable populations; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 4479. A bill to temporarily provide Commonwealth-only transitional worker permits for workers in construction occupations involved in disaster recovery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself and Mr. HAGEDORN):

H.R. 4480. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that credit reporting companies provide certain protections to small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 4481. A bill to authorize an energy critical elements program, to amend the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. VELA (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. AXNE):

H.R. 4482. A bill to increase the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists and support staff in the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 4483. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to increase State and local involvement in management plans; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H. Res. 575. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider and adhere to the recommendations of "The Prague Proposals";

to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SOTO, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HIMES, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. HECK, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H. Res. 576. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the whistleblower complaint of August 12, 2019, made to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COMER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H. Res. 578. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2019 as “National Workforce Development Month” and recognizing the necessity of investing in workforce development to support workers and to help employers succeed in a global economy; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. Res. 579. A resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that a commemorative postage stamp series should be issued honoring women veterans, and that the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp series be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself and Ms. MENG):

H. Res. 580. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 23 through September 27, 2019, as “Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week”; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:

H. Res. 581. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of September 22, 2019, to September 28, 2019, as Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions week; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GOODEN:

H. Res. 582. A resolution to end the inquisition of President Donald J. Trump; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 583. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 23 as “Mary Church Terrell Day”, and calling on Congress to recognize Mary Church Terrell’s lasting contributions to the civil rights and women’s rights movements; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 584. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2019 as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”; 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. SUOZZI (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H. Res. 585. A resolution reaffirming support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. STANTON, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. AXNE):

H. Res. 586. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2019 as “National Recovery Month”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILD, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SIREN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MENG, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. CORREA):

H. Res. 587. A resolution recognizing LGBTQ+ suicide as a public health problem and expressing support for the designation of September as “National Suicide Prevention Month”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H. Res. 588. A resolution expressing support for the designation of “National Amplified Musculoskeletal Pain Syndrome Awareness Day”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 4457.

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

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

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 4458.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4: “To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures.”

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4459.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. That provision gives Congress the power “to regulate commerce with for-

eign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire:

H.R. 4460.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution to “make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution.”

By Mr. KINZINGER:

H.R. 4461.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (Spending Clause); Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause); and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4462.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. That provision gives Congress the power “to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 4463.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 provides the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 4464.

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

Article I, Section 4

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 4465.

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

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

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 4466.

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

Constitutional Authority

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 4467.

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

The Spending Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. EVANS:

H.R. 4468.

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

Under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution, Congress has the power

“to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. HAGEDORN:

H.R. 4469.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 4470.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 4471.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 4472.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 4473.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 4474.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. MALINOWSKI:

H.R. 4475.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4476.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 4477.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, authorized by Congress' power to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 4478.

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

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 4479.

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

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 4480.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads; To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

and Offenses against the Law of Nations; To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And

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

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 4481.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VELA:

H.R. 4482.

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

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof."

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 4483.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution Page H946

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 93: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 99: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 101: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 275: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 302: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 444: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 479: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 510: Ms. PORTER and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 530: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 565: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 641: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 647: Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 649: Ms. SHALALA, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. HURD of Texas, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 675: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 724: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 737: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 744: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 754: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 763: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 783: Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 838: Mr. JEFFRIES and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 849: Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 864: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 871: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 884: Mr. YOUNG.

H.R. 925: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. MATSUI, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, and Mr. COX of California.

H.R. 939: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 943: Mr. FLORES, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 945: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. GIANFORTE.

H.R. 961: Mr. PAYNE and Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 996: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 1008: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 1025: Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 1034: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 1076: Mr. MORELLE and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1111: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1128: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H.R. 1139: Mr. CROW, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 1140: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1174: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 1175: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1225: Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1236: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1257: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1266: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1309: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 1325: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1337: Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 1354: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1364: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 1368: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1370: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 1373: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1379: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 1380: Mr. COSTA, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. WALTZ.

H.R. 1392: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 1400: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1427: Mr. WALTZ.

H.R. 1446: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1458: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1493: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 1522: Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 1529: Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 1533: Mr. LEE of Nevada, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. AXNE, and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1568: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

- H.R. 1570: Ms. TLAB.  
H.R. 1614: Mrs. MILLER.  
H.R. 1615: Mr. SPANO.  
H.R. 1629: Mr. ROUDA and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
H.R. 1683: Mr. KING of New York.  
H.R. 1702: Mr. COX of California.  
H.R. 1705: Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 1766: Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.  
H.R. 1767: Mr. GALLEGRO.  
H.R. 1776: Mr. RUSH and Mr. KENNEDY.  
H.R. 1777: Ms. SHALALA, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. DEFAZIO.  
H.R. 1805: Mr. DELGADO.  
H.R. 1814: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 1846: Ms. SPEIER.  
H.R. 1865: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 1897: Ms. DEAN.  
H.R. 1923: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MAST, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 1959: Mr. YOUNG.  
H.R. 1975: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. ROUDA, and Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 1997: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 2000: Mr. QUIGLEY and Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 2010: Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 2074: Mrs. AXNE.  
H.R. 2075: Mr. TIPTON.  
H.R. 2086: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 2089: Ms. ESCOBAR.  
H.R. 2118: Mr. BYRNE.  
H.R. 2146: Mr. MORELLE.  
H.R. 2147: Mr. WALKER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. BOST, and Ms. PLASKETT.  
H.R. 2149: Mr. ALLEN.  
H.R. 2153: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. WATKINS, and Ms. SPEIER.  
H.R. 2156: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 2192: Mr. HECK and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.  
H.R. 2200: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mrs. LURIA.  
H.R. 2201: Mr. SOTO, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CRIST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 2207: Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 2208: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 2213: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. GALLEGRO.  
H.R. 2214: Ms. GABBARD, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CROW, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Mr. RICHMOND.  
H.R. 2219: Mr. MEEKS.  
H.R. 2229: Mr. DELGADO.  
H.R. 2249: Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 2258: Mr. KILDEE.  
H.R. 2264: Mr. CRIST.  
H.R. 2300: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 2314: Mr. HUDSON.  
H.R. 2327: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. TAYLOR.  
H.R. 2328: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
H.R. 2339: Mr. HECK, Mr. ROUDA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MENG, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 2350: Mr. KEATING, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 2381: Mrs. LESKO.  
H.R. 2382: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. DAVIS of Kansas, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 2415: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 2423: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. LONG, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. COLE, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. GUEST.  
H.R. 2428: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 2433: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
H.R. 2435: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. KIM, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.  
H.R. 2441: Mr. BROWN of Maryland and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 2448: Mr. ROUDA.  
H.R. 2466: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 2468: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 2491: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CROW, and Ms. TLAB.  
H.R. 2498: Mr. DEUTCH.  
H.R. 2508: Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 2526: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 2533: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 2573: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CRIST, Mr. BACON, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WILLIAMS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOST, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 2594: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. MARSHALL.  
H.R. 2605: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 2617: Ms. GABBARD.  
H.R. 2651: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. STAUBER.  
H.R. 2674: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 2680: Mrs. AXNE.  
H.R. 2682: Mr. YOHO.  
H.R. 2720: Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 2729: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 2739: Mr. ROSE of New York.  
H.R. 2749: Ms. LEE of California.  
H.R. 2754: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
H.R. 2767: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. LEVIN of California.  
H.R. 2771: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 2777: Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 2795: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 2798: Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H.R. 2816: Mr. DELGADO.  
H.R. 2818: Mr. POCAN, Mr. ROSE of New York, Miss RICE of New York, and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 2829: Ms. GABBARD.  
H.R. 2846: Mr. WALTZ.  
H.R. 2847: Mr. DELGADO.  
H.R. 2863: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 2865: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 2895: Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 2897: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.  
H.R. 2912: Mr. MEEKS.  
H.R. 2918: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois and Ms. HAALAND.  
H.R. 2933: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 2937: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
H.R. 2993: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
H.R. 3006: Ms. UNDERWOOD and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 3025: Mr. BALDERSON.  
H.R. 3043: Mr. KILMER, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.  
H.R. 3048: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. GUEST.  
H.R. 3077: Mr. WALBERG, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. KIND, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Ms. MENG, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 3104: Mr. HUDSON and Miss RICE of New York.  
H.R. 3114: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 3115: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. GABBARD.  
H.R. 3116: Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 3125: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
H.R. 3138: Mr. ZELDIN.  
H.R. 3157: Ms. TLAB and Mr. DEFAZIO.  
H.R. 3165: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
H.R. 3166: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 3190: Mr. YOHO.  
H.R. 3192: Mr. CASE, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 3193: Ms. WATERS and Mr. SABLAN.  
H.R. 3195: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. HOULAHAN.  
H.R. 3200: Mr. JORDAN.  
H.R. 3214: Mr. KENNEDY.  
H.R. 3215: Ms. MOORE.  
H.R. 3219: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. STANTON.  
H.R. 3248: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 3249: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.R. 3287: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. GRIFFITH.  
H.R. 3289: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H.R. 3293: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 3303: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 3328: Mr. COX of California.  
H.R. 3373: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 3398: Ms. Sánchez, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.  
H.R. 3400: Mr. STIVERS.  
H.R. 3412: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. GUEST.  
H.R. 3414: Mr. ROSE of New York and Ms. MENG.  
H.R. 3423: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 3444: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 3450: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.  
H.R. 3456: Mr. KEATING and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.  
H.R. 3458: Mr. GIANFORTE.  
H.R. 3463: Mr. KEATING, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
H.R. 3465: Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 3489: Mrs. AXNE.  
H.R. 3495: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. NEAL, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.  
H.R. 3510: Mr. GALLEGRO.  
H.R. 3541: Mr. SABLAN.  
H.R. 3575: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico.  
H.R. 3593: Mr. STANTON.  
H.R. 3604: Mr. DEFAZIO.  
H.R. 3607: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico.  
H.R. 3623: Mr. ROUDA and Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 3647: Mr. PETERSON.  
H.R. 3654: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. DEUTCH.  
H.R. 3656: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.  
H.R. 3657: Ms. SCANLON and Miss González-Colón of Puerto Rico.  
H.R. 3689: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 3708: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 3734: Mr. COSTA.  
H.R. 3742: Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 3749: Mr. ROUDA and Mr. HECK.  
H.R. 3757: Mr. CLAY and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3762: Mr. WELCH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.  
H.R. 3799: Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CROW, and Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 3804: Ms. DEGETTE and Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.  
H.R. 3820: Mrs. AXNE.  
H.R. 3844: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 3851: Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SHALALA, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GALLEGRO, and Mr. GIANFORTE.  
H.R. 3879: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.  
H.R. 3884: Mr. MORELLE.  
H.R. 3922: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Mr.

- RICHMOND, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 3934: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.  
H.R. 3956: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mrs. TORRES of California.  
H.R. 3960: Mr. CRIST, Ms. Craig, and Ms. PINGREE.  
H.R. 3961: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. KATKO.  
H.R. 3962: Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 3964: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. WRIGHT.  
H.R. 3968: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Mr. GIBBS.  
H.R. 4008: Mr. KHANNA.  
H.R. 4009: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. WATKINS.  
H.R. 4022: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 4052: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 4056: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
H.R. 4067: Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 4069: Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
H.R. 4078: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 4098: Mr. GOODEN and Mr. FERGUSON.  
H.R. 4108: Ms. WILD.  
H.R. 4148: Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
H.R. 4153: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 4164: Mr. BACON and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 4165: Mr. CISNEROS.  
H.R. 4187: Mr. WATKINS.  
H.R. 4189: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 4194: Mr. CORREA.  
H.R. 4211: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
H.R. 4220: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 4230: Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
H.R. 4236: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.  
H.R. 4242: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 4246: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 4248: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
H.R. 4249: Mr. KHANNA.  
H.R. 4270: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. YOHO, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. GALLAGHER.  
H.R. 4272: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 4280: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 4283: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 4292: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.  
H.R. 4295: Ms. HAALAND.  
H.R. 4301: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 4308: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 4309: Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. WILD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 4319: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 4327: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 4335: Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 4343: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 4346: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 4348: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 4351: Mrs. WAGNER.  
H.R. 4355: Ms. WEXTON and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.  
H.R. 4373: Ms. HILL of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.  
H.R. 4374: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4387: Mr. HAGEDORN and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4388: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4391: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 4406: Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4407: Mr. HAGEDORN.  
H.R. 4408: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 4416: Ms. MOORE.  
H.R. 4420: Mr. CUMMINGS.  
H.R. 4428: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4434: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
H.R. 4435: Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 4436: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 4438: Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. COOPER.  
H.R. 4439: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4447: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.J. Res. 38: Mrs. FLETCHER.  
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. KENNEDY.  
H. Con. Res. 65: Ms. WATERS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. HAALAND.  
H. Res. 17: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. KILMER, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BASS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. CHABOT, and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H. Res. 23: Mr. HASTINGS.  
H. Res. 60: Mrs. AXNE.  
H. Res. 114: Mr. GOODEN.  
H. Res. 127: Mr. HILL of Arkansas.  
H. Res. 189: Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BASS, Mr. ROUZER, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. CHABOT.  
H. Res. 219: Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. LAMBORN.  
H. Res. 230: Ms. DEGETTE.  
H. Res. 233: Mr. KEATING.  
H. Res. 277: Mr. RASKIN, Ms. WILD, and Ms. BASS.  
H. Res. 296: Ms. BASS.  
H. Res. 323: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
H. Res. 326: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. LYNCH.  
H. Res. 374: Mr. STAUBER.  
H. Res. 387: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H. Res. 495: Ms. PORTER and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H. Res. 512: Mr. RIGGLEMAN and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H. Res. 513: Mr. HIMES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. ESHOO.  
H. Res. 517: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. BASS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. COOPER, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. KIM, Mr. WATKINS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CASE, Mrs. LOWEY, and Ms. BONAMICI.  
H. Res. 521: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H. Res. 538: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MENG, and Mr. WRIGHT.  
H. Res. 543: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WATKINS.  
H. Res. 549: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. KENNEDY.  
H. Res. 551: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COLE, and Mr. LATTA.  
H. Res. 552: Mr. KINZINGER and Mr. CICILLINE.  
H. Res. 556: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. SOTO.  
H. Res. 561: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
H. Res. 565: Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BACON, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. COX of California, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. POSTER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, and Mr. RICHMOND.