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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 families 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

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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. Clifton 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 Petersburgh, two communities in my district.

Hoosick Falls and Petersburgh 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 lowering 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 comprehensive 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 sealanes, 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 Mytkyina, 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. 2327, 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 security 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 Rohinyga 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;

(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 Emergency 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 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 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 nongovernmental 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, including 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 Congressional 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.

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 important 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 nongovernmental 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
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
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 Schultz
Rouzer	Stauber	Waters
Roybal-Allard	Steil	Watkins
Ruiz	Stevens	Watson Coleman
Rush	Stewart	Weber (TX)
Rutherford	Stivers	Webster (FL)
Sánchez	Suozzi	Welch
Sarbanes	Swalwell (CA)	Wenstrup
Scalise	Takano	Westerman
Scanlon	Taylor	Wexton
Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)	Wild
Schiff	Thompson (MS)	Williams
Schneider	Thompson (PA)	Wilson (FL)
Schrader	Thornberry	Wilson (SC)
Schrier	Timmons	Wittman
Schweikert	Titus	Womack
Scott (VA)	Tlaib	Woodall
Scott, Austin	Tonko	Yarmuth
Scott, David	Torres (CA)	Yoho
Sensenbrenner	Torres Small (NM)	Young
Serrano	Trahan	Zeldin
Sewell (AL)		

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 XII.

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. SWEEZEY, 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. Sweezey, Jr., as we celebrate his 80th birthday on September 27.

Mr. Sweezey 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. Sweezey's father served in the Navy during World War II but passed away in an aircraft accident after the war. Nevertheless, Mr. Sweezey'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. Sweezey retired from the Army in 1991 and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Mr. Sweezey 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. Sweezey 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.

□ 1915

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 became 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.

□ 1930

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, liberty, 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 manner 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.

□ 1945

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 financial 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 Supplemental 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; Dontario '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; Lioneld 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													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	0	−1	−2	−3	−3	−3	−6	−7	−5	−2	−9	−32

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 acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2244. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Service 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 Environment 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 that Employing Offices of the House of Representatives or the Senate, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1381(l)(1)(A); Public Law 104-1, title III, 301(l)(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 further 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. KRISHNAMOORTHI, 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. SIRES, 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 foreign 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

Aritcle 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 an 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: Mrs. 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. TLAIB.
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. GALLEGO.
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. GALLEGO, 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. GALLEGO.
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. KRISHNAMOORTHI, 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. DAVIDS 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. TLAIB.
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. TLAIB 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. GALLEGO.
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. GALLEGO, 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. VISCLOSKY, 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. PASCRELL, 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. FOSTER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, and Mr. RICHMOND.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 No. 154

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, give our lawmakers the power to live with purity. Remind them that for each test and temptation, You have provided a way of escape. When they stumble, help them to receive the forgiveness of Your abounding grace. May they permit Your spirit to control their minds and hearts, continually delivering them from evil.

Lord, we cannot live with integrity in our strength alone, so keep us united with You.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

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

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

THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, we have been hearing from the other body a lot about how the Senate isn't taking up House bills. Now, that seems to be as though the Senate is supposed to somehow be a rubberstamp for the other body.

Well, we just celebrated Constitution Day last week, and the Constitution doesn't provide for the Senate to automatically take up bills from the other body. Maybe it is time for a reminder about how the Founding Fathers intended the Senate to work, so I am going to give a short quote by James Madison in the Federalist Papers, No. 62, entitled ''The Senate'':

> The necessity of a senate is not less indicated by the propensity of all single and numerous assemblies, to yield to the impulse of sudden and violent passions, and to be seduced by factious leaders into intemperate and pernicious resolutions.

I am not saying that the House of Representatives passes intemperate and pernicious resolutions, but at least the Founding Fathers thought that could happen, and they had the Senate to be a check on the House of Representatives, just as the House of Representatives can be a check on anything that we do.

There are now over 80 bills that have passed both Houses, but there are some that can't pass the Senate, and there are probably some the Senate feels shouldn't even be brought up. The difference between the House and Senate—and some contemplation by the Senate to be very cautious—is how the Constitution meant the Senate was supposed to work. I hope leaders of the House of Representatives will be reminded of that from time to time. That is my purpose today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

HONORING CHRIS HULSEY

Mr. MCCONNELL. First, this morning, I join the Kentucky families and first responders in Meade County in mourning the loss of volunteer sheriff's deputy Chris Hulsey, who was killed in the line of duty over the weekend. According to reports, on Saturday evening, Deputy Hulsey was attacked while investigating a suspect and pronounced dead at the hospital hours later.

Deputy Hulsey proudly answered the call of public service with a decades-long career that also included time as a firefighter and a paramedic. His service left his community safer, and his sacrifice left it in grief. I stand with them in mourning his loss and honoring his service. The community will hold a candlelight vigil tonight to honor this Kentucky hero. The prayers of the Senate will be with them.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on an entirely different matter, the Senate continues making headway in the personnel business.

It is still too bad that our Democratic colleagues continue to insist on cloture votes, floor time, and rollcall votes for the kinds of uncontroversial nominees who have ordinarily traveled by voice vote for past administrations of both parties. Yet the Senate hasn't been deterred by this novel campaign of systematic obstruction from our Democratic friends. We will keep right on getting these talented public servants on the job, where they belong.

Later today, we will confirm a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury. Then we will confirm an ambassador, a solicitor of a Cabinet department, and a deputy commissioner of Social Security. They aren't the only nominees we will confirm this week. Before our work is finished, we will also have confirmed our next Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and, pending the committee action of our colleagues, our

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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next Secretary of Labor—another group of talented professionals put to work for the American people and more of the President's team in place.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week, we will also address our responsibility to keep the Federal Government funded.

The Republicans regret that our Democratic colleagues have chosen to back away from the agreement we all reached just last month to ensure a smooth, bipartisan funding process. We regret that the Democrats chose to block funding for the national defense, including a pay raise for our men and women in uniform, in order to pick a partisan fight with the White House.

Yet, for the sake of the country, our near-term priority is that of passing a continuing resolution so the government can stay open while work continues. I am glad the continuing resolution on the table earned significant bipartisan support across the Capitol and has also earned the green light from the White House. The Senate will vote on it this week. As Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY continue their work on regular order appropriations, I hope the cooperation that has surrounded this CR can carry over and that we can get the appropriations process back on track.

THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on yet another matter, the productive, bipartisan work that needs to happen in the Senate will stand in stark contrast to the choices made by the House Democrats across the Capitol.

Over there, it seems as though a far-left socialist ideology is increasingly becoming mainstream Democratic Party doctrine, and rather than roll up their sleeves and work with the Republicans and with the White House on proposals that could actually become law, the House continues to promote one dangerous leftwing policy after another.

The Senate has already voted on the Green New Deal, the Democrats' socialist wish list that seeks to outlaw affordable energy and transportation, eliminate the jobs many Americans rely on, and even empower government bureaucrats to redesign families' homes. Needless to say, it didn't do too well. Here in the real world, out of the college campus atmosphere that seems to characterize the House Democrats, the Senate voted it down. I have already discussed the recent House-passed bill that would have cut down on our domestic energy and American energy independence.

We also all know about Medicare for None, which is the plan the Democrats' Presidential candidates are rushing to embrace, that would literally outlaw the existing health insurance 180 million Americans currently get on the job and throw everyone into an untested, one-size-fits-all government plan.

Just last week, Speaker PELOSI expanded on the Democrats' Medicare for None philosophy by introducing a bill to micromanage Americans' medicine and start trying to have Washington, DC, run the prescription drug industry because, if there is anything that has been proven to increase competition and affordability for American families, it is huge, new doses of heavy-handed Washington, DC, interference.

No, we will not let the Democrats take us down the path that embraces the socialist concept of starting to nationalize an industry with people devoted to finding cures and saving lives. The life sciences sector is driving the search for cures to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and countless other diseases that impact millions of Americans.

The Speaker and her caucus may be content to spend their majority passing leftwing messaging bills, but in this Senate, we take the American people's priorities more seriously, and we will stick to getting their business done.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, in just a few days, we will mark the 1-year anniversary of the President's concluding negotiations on the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement. It is time for Congress to ratify this agreement now.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will benefit pretty much every sector of the U.S. economy: the automobile industry, textiles, digital trade and e-commerce, services, manufacturing, and yes, of course, agriculture.

As the representative of a State whose lifeblood is agriculture, farmers and ranchers are always at the top of my mind, and a huge focus of mine right now is helping our struggling agricultural economy.

Low commodity and livestock prices, natural disasters, and protracted trade disputes have made a tough few years for our Nation's farmers. One of the most important things we can do to help our agricultural economy recover is to open new markets for American agricultural products.

During August, I spent a lot of time talking to farmers back home in my State of South Dakota. Again and again, they emphasized that they need action on trade from Washington. With so many trade deals currently up in the air, farmers and ranchers are struggling with a lack of certainty about what international markets are going to look like.

While they share the President's goal of addressing trade imbalances and securing more favorable conditions for American products, they also believe that we need to conclude the agreements that we are negotiating as soon as possible. The longer negotiations drag on, the tougher their situation gets. That is why I have repeatedly stressed the need to bring these agreements to a swift conclusion, and I emphasize that point to the President nearly every time I talk to him.

However, there is one deal we don't need to wait for, and that is the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement. As I said earlier, negotiations on this agreement concluded a year ago, and it is high time for Congress to take it up and pass it so that farmers and ranchers can start seeing the benefits.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement is a big win for farmers and ranchers. Of particular interest to South Dakota are the agreement's dairy provisions. Dairy is an important and rapidly growing industry in South Dakota. Drive the I–29 corridor north of Brookings, SD, and you can see firsthand the massive dairy expansion that we have experienced over the past several years.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will preserve U.S. dairy farmers' role as a key dairy supplier to Mexico, and it will substantially expand market access in Canada, where

U.S. dairy sales have been restricted. The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that the agreement will boost U.S. dairy exports by more than $277 million.

The agreement will also expand market access for U.S. poultry and egg producers, and it will make it easier for U.S. producers to export wheat to Canada, and so much more.

Above all, this agreement will provide farmers and ranchers with certainty about what the Canadian and Mexican markets are going to look like going forward. American farmers depend upon these markets to sell their products, and it is vital that farmers have a clear idea of what these markets are going to look like in the future.

Republicans in the Senate are ready to take action on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement at any point. I hope House Democrats will quickly work out their remaining issues and indicate their willingness to vote on this deal. The administration has made addressing Democrats' concerns a priority throughout the negotiation process, and it is time for Democrats to bring this process to a swift conclusion.

As I mentioned, we are almost a year now past the time when the President signed this agreement, and it has been available for consideration by the House of Representatives for that entire time. It is high time that we act on this trade deal and get it over here to the Senate, where we can vote on it and get it to the President for his signature.

Last week, seven former U.S. Agriculture Secretaries, from both Democratic and Republican administrations, sent a letter to House and Senate leadership stating their strong support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement.

The Secretaries noted:

> With farmers facing one of the lowest net farm incomes in the last decade, USMCA would create enhanced export opportunities and help fully capitalize on increased global demand for food products. Furthermore, USMCA would significantly boost farm incomes and create jobs both on and off the farm in rural communities.

Again, that is from seven former U.S. Agriculture Secretaries, serving both Republican and Democrat Presidents.

Life hasn't been easy for our Nation's farmers and ranchers over the past few years, and I can certainly attest to that, as I have looked at what the economy in South Dakota has been like in these last several years. The surest way that we can stabilize and boost farm income and help farm country is to conclude agreements like the USMCA. I urge my Democrat colleagues in the House of Representatives to make getting this deal done in the House, over to the Senate, and across the finish line their No. 1 priority.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we continue to read reports containing additional information about the nature of President Trump's phone calls with Ukrainian President Zelensky and his administration's conduct in the weeks and months before and after those communications.

Ignoring for a moment the political reporting, we know that someone inside the intelligence community found the President's conduct alarming enough to warrant an official whistleblower complaint. The complaint was so alarming that the inspector general of the intelligence community, appointed by President Trump, said that it was credible and urgent and a complaint that by law must be submitted to Congress. This is not one of those discretionary moments; the law says this must be transmitted to Congress.

We still have not received the whistleblower complaint, and Congress has been advised in writing by the inspector general of the intelligence community that the Trump administration is preventing us from getting this report. So later today, I will request the unanimous consent of the Senate to pass a resolution calling for the whistleblower complaint to be provided to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees, as prescribed by law. Let me repeat that. Later today, I will request the unanimous consent of the Senate to pass a resolution calling for the whistleblower complaint to be provided to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees, as prescribed by law.

It is our job in the Congress to provide the necessary oversight of the executive branch, to take these matters—matters of foreign policy, national security, and constitutional integrity—with the utmost gravity, to seek the facts, and then grapple with them.

I made several requests of the majority leader yesterday in an effort to collect the facts, to which I have received no response. Today, I will seek approval for a simple resolution calling for the whistleblower complaint to be transmitted to the relevant committees in Congress. I hope the majority leader and Senate Republicans will not block it. I hope they will rise to the occasion and realize that this is their constitutional duty and realize that this involves the security of the United States.

I will have more to say on the matter before requesting my colleagues' consent to pass this resolution later today.

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Madam President, on the national emergency—another issue that involves rule of law and the President's overreach—this week, as early as tomorrow, the Senate will vote on whether to terminate the President's national emergency declaration, which he has used to steal from our military to build the border wall—a wall President Trump promised over and over again that Mexico would pay for; not American taxpayers, not American troops, not their families—Mexico. That was the President's promise to the American people. It is a promise he broke. But that is what it has come to.

If my Republican friends choose to stand with President Trump on this vote, they will be supporting the President's taking money from our military and their families to fund a border wall. I imagine that even many of those who support the wall—and that is not a majority or close to a majority of Americans—would not want the money to come from the military.

Later this morning, Democrats will have a press conference where we will talk about this. We will remind people that the consequences of the President's emergency declaration are far-reaching. He is taking money away from military readiness, military families, and the children of servicemembers. He is taking money from military medical facilities in North Carolina and hurricane recovery projects in Florida, money from programs we use to combat Russian cyber aggression and money to upgrade storage facilities that are decrepit and pose a risk because of the munitions that are stored there.

What the heck are we doing here? Congress appropriated these funds with a specific purpose. In our Constitution, the President doesn't get to decide where the money goes; we do. He gets veto power. He tried to shut down the government and failed. If he can get around the constitutionally sanctioned balance of power—that is what a dictator does, not someone who believes in democracy and rule of law.

What he has done here far exceeds any overreach that my Republican colleagues complain about that President Obama did. But, remarkably, too many are silent. Too many are willing to go along. The fear of this President, who many of my colleagues know privately does not have the honor, morality, honesty, and actually competence to do this job—they know that, but they go along with just about everything he does.

On a policy basis, you can shrug your shoulders. That is the differences between the parties. But when it comes to defending the Constitution and rule of law and not letting the Executive overreach—the No. 1 fear of the Founding Fathers—we are above that. Where are our Republican colleagues?

I am sure if the shoe were on the other foot and a Democrat were President and declared an emergency to reappropriate funds, my Republican colleagues would be up in arms. As I mentioned, when President Obama did far less, they were screaming bloody murder. But now they are remarkably silent.

So it is about time our Senate Republicans stand up for the rule of law, stand up for our Constitution, and stand up to the President when he is wrong. It is time to reassert the powers of the legislative branch, the people's branch of government. Senate Republicans will have that opportunity this week, likely tomorrow, and the American people will clearly be able to see whose side each Republican is on—the people's side, the Constitution's side, or the President's side.

NOMINATION OF DANIEL HABIB JORJANI

Madam President, finally, on the Jorjani nomination, later today, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Daniel Jorjani to serve as Solicitor of the Department of the Interior. By all rights, Leader MCCONNELL should withdraw this vote from the floor. Mr. Jorjani's career is out of step with the agency's mission, and it has come to light that Mr. Jorjani likely lied to Congress about his role in the Department's adherence to transparency laws.

Under President Trump, the Interior Department has been mired in several investigations about the ethical conduct of its political appointees, including former Secretary Zinke. It is obvious that the Interior Department sorely needs transparency and public accountability, especially when the stewardship of our public lands is at stake. But at the Department of the Interior, political appointees have instituted policies to stonewall and squash transparency. It is likely that Mr. Jorjani played a key role in shaping these policies and is at this moment one of the subjects of an Interior Department inspector general investigation.

Despite his sworn testimony claiming no role in reviewing public records requests, public documentation has shown that Mr. Jorjani was regularly made aware of FOIA requests involving high-level political appointees. If confirmed, Mr. Jorjani would play an even larger role in overseeing the Interior Department's public releases.

The President said he would clean the swamp. Nomination after nomination that he makes, makes the swamp even filthier, stinkier. He seems to have no morality. He seems to have no honor. This is a man who is loaded with conflicts of interest, ethical concerns, and is likely an ideologue opposed to the very missions of the agency to which he is nominated. Mr. Jorjani is another bright red example of the lack of honor, of decency, of morality, and of honesty in Trump appointees. I urge Senate Republicans to join Democrats in voting to reject this sordid nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, there are certain elements of this responsibility of serving in the Senate that have been tested from time to time in our history.

As Members of the Senate, each of us stands in the well right over in that corner, raises our right hand, and swears to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. Those words are almost a cliche because they are used so often. Yet here today we are being called on to really reflect on that responsibility. We are called on to reflect on it because of things that have happened that have come to light in the last several days that raise serious constitutional questions.

I will say that in the 2½ to 3 years that Donald Trump has been President of the United States, I think our Nation has been rocked by this President's approach to the highest office in the land. He has said things and done things no other President has ever done.

Members of his own political party have been uncharacteristically silent when it comes to criticizing this President for his wrongdoing. The litany of things he has done is long and troubling. But there is one thing that we, as both political parties, need to maintain as the bedrock of this democracy, the bedrock of our commitment to this Constitution; that is, that in this Nation of the United States, the people govern.

Ultimately, the people of the United States have the last word—in our elections. In those elections, they make their choices, whether you like them or not. I wasn't particularly enamored with the Presidential choice in 2016, but I accepted it as the constitutional verdict of the American people. It really is the bedrock of who we are and what we are. That is why the notion that some other nation would interfere in our election is so repugnant.

The thought that the American people would not have the last word, that there would be other factors and other people, other countries engaged in our election, is as reprehensible under our Constitution as any concept I can think of.

We are sworn to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic—another group of words we have heard over and over again. But reflecting on those for a moment—sworn to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic—is a nation that tries to interfere in our political process an enemy of the United States? Of course. That is obvious on its face. Those who would encourage a nation to be engaged in our political process, to try to tip the scales one way or the other, are they enemies of the United States? Well, they are certainly not acting consistent with that constitutional principle.

This seems like a pretty straightforward constitutional interpretation. You don't need a Ph.D. or a law degree to understand, if a foreign country tries to interfere in the U.S. election process, that foreign country is an enemy in that action. Those who would encourage a foreign country or foreign agents to engage in our election, they, too, have crossed the line.

As I consider the revelations that President Trump is using his office to extort Ukraine to support his political reelection campaign, I wonder why there is so much silence on the other side of the aisle. This is an outrageous development.

Months before the 2016 election, our Nation's top intelligence officials told key congressional leaders about the efforts of Russia to interfere in the 2016 election, the election where the American people were choosing the President. Our top intelligence officials were understandably concerned. At that time, President Obama asked our congressional leaders for a bipartisan message condemning Vladimir Putin's efforts on behalf of Russia. President Obama wanted to make sure it was bipartisan before that 2016 election and showed a unified resistance to the interference by any foreign country in America's election process.

What was the response of the Republican majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, after hearing this bombshell, this threat from a former Communist KGB official, Vladimir Putin, against America's democratic process of election? He answered that he didn't want to get involved, and he didn't.

Then, for months after the election, not a single Republican Senator spoke on the Senate floor about the mounting and devastating evidence of Russia's attack on our election in 2016. I know that, personally, because the first casualty in that attack was the voter file of my State of Illinois. The Russians found a way, through their trolls, to get into the voter file of my home State, into the voting records of 70,000 or more Americans who live in Illinois. What did they do with that information? It appears little or nothing, but they could have changed it, and they could have had a dramatic impact on the right of these American citizens to make their legitimate constitutional choice in the election.

For months, the silence was deafening as well, as President Trump defended Vladimir Putin's brazen denials of these attacks. President Trump took the word of Vladimir Putin over that of his own American intelligence professionals. Senate Republicans blocked election security measure after election security measure, and despite finally relenting last week when Senator MCCONNELL said we could come up with $250 million for election security grants, they still continue to block substantive legislation, despite ongoing attacks and U.S. vulnerability.

The country spent much of the Trump Presidency asking serious, necessary questions about Candidate

Trump's open solicitation of Russian help in his Presidential campaign and if such cooperation actually ran deeper. While unable to establish a formal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and the Russians, in nearly 200 pages, the Mueller report described ''numerous links between the Russian government and the Trump Campaign.''

The Mueller report also laid out, in detail, how the Russians brazenly and systematically interfered in our election in 2016 and tried to shape the outcome. You would think that after such a sobering set of findings, any American President would take the matter seriously and reassure the Nation that he really does put America, not a foreign power, first when it comes to our electoral process, but, no, shortly after the Mueller report was released, President Trump told ABC's George Stephanopoulos he would still accept a foreign government's offer to share damaging information about a political rival, echoing similar remarks he made in his original Presidential campaign.

In short, President Trump learned nothing from the experience of the 2016 election. The silence of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seems to indicate the same.

Now we have reports that President Trump is at it again, trying to strong-arm the leader of Ukraine to join him in attacking one of President Trump's political rivals, Joe Biden. It is not to advance American interests, not to serve the American people, not to help an ally in Ukraine, not to uphold American values but to serve the President's own reelection campaign interest.

Last week, I offered an amendment in the Appropriations Committee to address $250 million which had been appropriated by Congress to help protect Ukraine from Russian aggression and was never released. Last Thursday, I had this amendment coming before the committee, and it basically said to the administration: If you don't release the money we have appropriated, you are going to pay a price for it.

Occasionally, that is all you can do as a Member of Congress to get money spent that was appropriated and approved by the President. It was a curiosity. Why in the world were we holding back $250 million that was supposed to help the Ukrainian people stop the aggression of Vladimir Putin?

I went to the committee hearing on Thursday morning. Before it started, one of my staff members said: Oh, the Trump administration released the money last night.

Last night? Why did they wait until 2 weeks before the end of the fiscal year to release the money?

Oh, they were reviewing this to determine whether there was any problem with releasing the money to Ukraine.

It was a curious answer. It didn't make much sense. The President had signed this appropriations bill.

For months, as President Trump, through his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, tried to pressure Ukrainian President Zelensky to further his political agenda, the money that was supposed to go to Ukraine was withheld.

We learned in this morning's Washington Post the President had instructed his Chief of Staff to notify the appropriate agencies to withhold the money while he bargained with Zelensky over salacious, negative information about Joseph Biden and his family.

Now we are learning there was a whistleblower complaint, reportedly about the same issue. Apparently, someone in the administration who learned what President Trump was trying to do in strong-arming Ukrainian President Zelensky decided it overstepped the bounds and needed to be reported on officially. The congressional Intelligence Committees that get access to the information provided by this whistleblower are still waiting for that information—information the Trump-appointed inspector general for the intelligence community, Michael Atkinson, a Trump appointee, has determined to be credible and urgent. In other words, something happened at the highest levels of our government which led a professional in the intelligence agency, the inspector general, to make a whistleblower complaint for the record.

The law requires that complaint to be shared with committees of Congress. It wasn't. It turns out that the Attorney General of the United States, William Barr, may have played some role in diverting that from its ordinary statutory course. The President may not want anyone to see it, but the law is clear and must be respected: This information in the whistleblower complaint must be transmitted to Congress.

Is there anyone in the Senate, anyone who took the oath to protect the Nation against enemies foreign and domestic, who thinks any of us, regardless of political party, should solicit help from a foreign power to make sure we get elected or reelected?

This abdication of responsibility by the other party is remarkable. I want to salute one Senator, and I hesitate to mention any direct reference to him, but one Senator on the Republican side who has spoken out. He understands the gravity of the situation, the constitutional issues at stake in this debate, and the fact that, ultimately, history must stand in judgment of all of us of whether we have spoken up.

If this President of the United States can attempt to extort a foreign leader to withhold security funds that would have been given by the United States to his country in order to pursue and promote his own political agenda, we have reached a new low in the United States. If this whistleblower's claim goes into detail, it is only right and appropriate, under the statute, that this information be shared with the appropriate committees of the U.S. Senate and House. The whistleblower's claim needs to be released to the appropriate congressional committees and evaluated according to the law, and congressional Republicans—House and Senate—need to make it clear once and for all that no President—not this President, no President—can solicit or strong-arm a foreign country to further his own campaign. That is unacceptable under the Constitution of the United States, which I remind my colleagues we are sworn to uphold and defend.

I yield the floor.

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

NOMINATION OF DANIEL HABIB JORJANI

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, over the past 2½ years, we have seen a remarkable pattern emerge in the types of people Donald Trump nominates to serve in his administration. His nominees have extensive conflicts of interest. They work to advance the interest of foreign clients, financial patrons, or other special interests. In doing so, they are actively hostile to the very departments in which they have been nominated to serve.

Daniel Jorjani—the President's nominee to serve as Solicitor of the Department of the Interior—is a classic example of this pattern. The DOI Solicitor is a critically important position in the Department. In addition to being the chief legal adviser to the Secretary, the Solicitor is intimately involved in developing the legal justifications for Department policies, defending DOI positions in court, and overseeing compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA.

Given the influence the Department's Solicitor has on issues, such as the implementation of the Endangered Species Act, stewardship of public lands, and holding companies accountable for their impacts on the environment, it is essential that whoever occupies this job can execute his or her duties in a manner that upholds the public trust.

With the nomination of Daniel Jorjani, Donald Trump has once again shown that he prioritizes exploiting our environment for the benefit of fossil fuel companies over the very real interests of the American people and protecting our environment.

Prior to joining the Trump administration, Mr. Jorjani spent 7 years working in organizations throughout the Koch brothers' sprawling empire. In positions such as the general counsel of Freedom Partners, Mr. Jorjani assisted the Koch brothers in pursuing a relentlessly pro-fossil fuel agenda. He fought against the Obama administration's actions to combat climate change and protect the environment.

It was with precisely this experience in mind that Donald Trump appointed Mr. Jorjani as the Principal Deputy Solicitor and Acting Solicitor of DOI in 2017. During his tenure in these roles,

which did not require Senate confirmation, Mr. Jorjani wasted little time before mounting a full frontal assault on Obama-era environmental regulations, to the delight of his former patrons. Of the eight Solicitor's legal opinions that Mr. Jorjani authored, seven roll back Obama-era environmental regulations.

Let me focus on one example that certainly sticks out. In a stunning reversal of a 2017 opinion issued by then-Solicitor Hilary Tompkins, Mr. Jorjani pushed to shield companies from liability for killing birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as long as it was not the company's intended action.

That is like saying BP shouldn't have to pay to clean up the Deepwater Horizon oilspill because they didn't intend to release nearly 5 million barrels—200 million gallons—of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Clearly, companies should not be shielded from their negligence.

Mr. Jorjani's reversal of the opinion overturned existing Department enforcement practices that had been in place for the past 40 years. The oil and gas industry had been complaining about this rule for years precisely because it held them accountable for their actions.

When I asked Mr. Jorjani directly at his confirmation hearing about which industry benefited most from this reversal decision of his, he claimed: ''I'm not aware of any particular industry that benefits from this.''

Who is he trying to kid? My reaction to Mr. Jorjani's shibai—or BS—answer is that the oil and gas industries are the biggest beneficiaries. He knew it, and I knew it.

Mr. Jorjani's actions are particularly alarming in light of a new study that found that North America has lost 3 billion birds—nearly 30 percent of our total bird population—in the past 50 years.

In normal times, we expect leaders of the Interior Department to pursue policies to mitigate the harm being done to our ecosystems and environment, not to do things that will actually make big problems even worse. But these are not normal times.

Instead, we have yet another Trump nominee with extensive conflicts of interest, pursuing policies that help his former employers in a manner that is fundamentally hostile to the Department in which he or she serves.

Fitting the Trump administration's normal pattern of corruption should be more than enough to deny him confirmation to this critical job, but Mr. Jorjani—just like his boss, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt—is also currently under investigation by the DOI inspector general.

Mr. Jorjani is under investigation for potential misconduct related to his management of the Department's compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, and its so-called supplemental review policy.

Under this policy, political appointees at the Department are notified about the public release of any documents containing their names or email addresses. This policy can be problematic even in normal times. It could result in political interference in the FOIA process to delay the release of potentially damaging information, but DOI allegedly has an additional internal review policy that goes even further. It allows Mr. Jorjani and the Department's Deputy Chief of Staff 5 days before release to review requested records that involve senior staff in the Secretary's office. This review process not only opens up the possibility for inappropriate delays but also allows for willful and blatant withholding of important information the public has requested.

In response to questions at his confirmation hearing and questions for the record, Mr. Jorjani asserted that he ''typically did not review records prior to their release under the FOIA.'' However, internal documents released by the DOI paint a very different picture, one in which Mr. Jorjani was regularly involved in reviewing FOIA documents.

At best, Mr. Jorjani was not forthcoming or candid. In fact, it appeared that he lied under oath.

With a position as important as this one, the American people deserve, at the very least, an ethical Solicitor devoted to the mission of the Department, one who is not compromised by or catering to the narrow interests of his former employers or one who doesn't tell his staff, as Mr. Jorjani told his staff, that ''at the end of the day our job is to protect the Secretary.'' Protecting the Secretary is nowhere in Mr. Jorjani's job description. He is yet another Trump nominee who should not be confirmed by the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I recognize the Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to propound a unanimous consent request. I think colleagues know we have run a little bit behind. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Iowa be recognized next for her remarks and that I be recognized to close the debate on Mr. Jorjani and be allowed to speak for up to 15 minutes. I think we would end up being about 10 minutes late or thereabouts, between 20 of and quarter of.

I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak for up to 15 minutes after the Senator from Iowa has finished her remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, first, I would like to thank my colleague from Oregon. I appreciate that very much.

NO BUDGET NO RECESS ACT AND END-OF-YEAR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

Mr. President, 'tis the season in Washington. Government agencies are going on their ''Christmas in September, use-it-or-lose-it'' shopping spree. If not spent by midnight on September 30, leftover dollars expire and can no longer be used.

Rather than returning the money to taxpayers, binge-buying bureaucrats are wasting billions of taxpayer dollars needlessly. Frankly, folks, this is Washington's most notorious tradition at the end of our fiscal year.

Let me tell you, folks, Iowans and hard-working folks across the country really should be appalled by many of the last-minute purchases our tax dollars are paying for. I will just give you some examples.

There was $4.6 million spent on lobster tail and crab; $2.1 million spent on games, toys, and wheeled goods; over $53,000 on china and tableware; more than $40,000 on clocks; and nearly $12,000 for a commercial foosball table. Yes, that is right, folks, a commercial foosball table, 12,000 of your dollars.

What are we, as Congress, doing about this wasteful spending? Nada, nothing. Congress is sitting idly by, letting Washington bureaucrats waste the hard-earned dollars of folks in my home State of Iowa.

Failing to pass the bills necessary to fund the government on time makes it difficult for agencies to thoughtfully plan and allocate billions of dollars. That is why I fought hard to make sure Congress completes its job of appropriating and budgeting on time.

Through my No Budget No Recess Act, Members of Congress would be prohibited from leaving Washington if we fail to pass a budget by April 15 or if we fail to approve regular spending bills by August 1.

The way we are doing business is incentivizing Federal agencies to rush and spend the rest of their money as quickly as possible, and it makes it all the more likely that they will waste money on unnecessary goods and services.

As Iowa taxpayers know, it is never smart to rush into a big purchase. Unfortunately, it seems Washington bureaucrats don't agree, especially when it is the tax dollars of hard-working Americans that they are dealing with.

Washington's spending disorder gets more expensive every year. The $97 billion rung up in September 2018 is 15 percent more than was spent the same month the previous year and a staggering 39 percent more than that time in 2015. But if the Federal agencies followed the President's directive to trim their budgets by 5 percent, an easy place to start is simply by cutting the dollars they have been unable to spend.

Federal agencies end every year with leftover money in their budgets. This year, it is estimated the government will end up with more than $825 billion in unspent funds that have not been committed by contract or otherwise obligated to be spent. Last year's $804 billion budget deficit could have been wiped out and turned into a surplus if the unobligated balance being held in the Federal coffers had been canceled.

Instead, Federal agencies ordered lobster tail and tons of—get this—tater tots—tons of tater tots, as Washington amassed its largest shortfall since 2012.

Folks, we have to put an end to this madness. Seriously, someone has to be the Grinch on behalf of our taxpayers. That is why earlier this year I introduced the End-of-Year Fiscal Responsibility Act.

My bill would limit an agency's spending in the last 2 months of the year to no more than the average of the previous 10 months. This bill will not end all wasteful spending, but it will force agencies to put more thought into long-term planning and curtail the bad habit of out-of-control impulsive spending.

Folks, Washington spending is out of control. With our national debt now surpassing $22 trillion, Washington should be looking for ways to save by canceling or delaying unnecessary expenses rather than splurging on end-of-the-year wish lists.

I would like to recognize the great work of the nonpartisan group OpenTheBooks, which is working to put every dime the government spends online in real time to hold Washington accountable. The group issued a report on this very subject in March.

I would also like to note that Iowans sent me to the Senate with a specific mission: Cut wasteful spending, and make Washington squeal. To prevent buyer's remorse, I am giving everyone in Washington fair warning. My office will be reviewing your last-minute purchases and asking you to justify them to the taxpayers.

It is time to put an end to this reckless behavior. Billion-dollar binge buying is no way to budget.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF DANIEL HABIB JORJANI

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, there is a job opening at the Interior Department, and that can mean only one thing: another Trump nominee who, incredibly, is already under investigation for misconduct, even before his first day on the job. This time, it is Daniel Jorjani, a long-serving Trump Interior official who is up for a powerful role as the Department's Solicitor.

I say to the Presiding Officer and colleagues, I have put a hold on this nominee. If anything, the case for withholding action on this nominee has gotten greater in the last few days. Just in the last few days, the Department's inspector general has made it clear that this is an individual he is going to investigate. I will tell my colleagues that, if you are putting somebody already under investigation on a fast track to the Interior Department corruption hall of fame, right up there with Ryan Zinke, I believe that is a mistake the Senate is going to regret.

It probably doesn't take an inspector general investigation to uncover why this is a mistake. I am going to explain it this morning, briefly.

First, I believe it is important to start with an honest assessment of what Donald Trump appointees have done at the Interior Department. Under this President, it is often difficult for one agency's corruption to stand out above the rest, but somehow Interior Department officials manage to do that again and again.

Mr. Jorjani, a former industry adviser for Koch Industries, is an example of just this type of behavior. The Office of the Interior Solicitor is in charge of legal issues and ethics for the Department. It is a big team with a lot of power. Mr. Jorjani has been a key member of the Solicitor's office.

His own words indicate that he doesn't believe that his primary function at Interior is to protect public lands and uphold ethical standards. We have already heard discussion earlier this morning that he wrote to agency colleagues—and we have been quoting it—saying ''our job is to protect the Secretary.'' Those are his words, not the words of anybody here in the Senate. What Senators may not know is that Mr. Jorjani was talking about Ryan Zinke, who brought on a category 5 ethical hurricane during his brief time as Interior Secretary.

In the same email, Mr. Jorjani boasted about having impeded inspector general investigations into the misuse of taxpayer funds for travel. It wasn't just talk. The record shows that covering up dirty ethics and potential lawbreaking is routine for Mr. Jorjani. By my count, there are at least four investigations into wrongdoing at the Interior Department that were closed or found inconclusive due to a lack of cooperation or records production on Mr. Jorjani's watch.

These investigations covered a multitude of issues, from the potential misuse of expensive chartered travel to a halted study on the crucial health impacts of potentially dangerous Interior Department energy policies.

Then there is the issue of the Interior Department's new policy under the Trump administration with respect to the Freedom of Information Act. The new policy—and again, this is a retreat from public interest standards—gives political appointees unprecedented control over the Department's response to Freedom of Information Act requests. In my view, it looks like an effort to conceal the fact that Trump Interior officials are spending their days doing the bidding of a host of special interests.

There is clear evidence that this new secretive Freedom of Information Act policy was implemented under the Trump administration, that Mr. Jorjani knew about it, and that he was up to his eyeballs in putting this in motion.

When I asked Mr. Jorjani about the Freedom of Information Act policy during an Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, Mr. Jorjani actually claimed it didn't exist. He later told one of our colleagues, the distinguished Senator from Maine, Mr. KING, that he had no involvement in Freedom of Information Act responses.

I want it understood that I believe Mr. Jorjani lied to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and perjured himself to that body.

Colleagues, I know that Members on both sides are concerned about what has happened with the Freedom of Information Act under this administration. I want to commend the several Republican Senators who have said that they are troubled about what this administration is doing with the Freedom of Information Act—the so-called ''awareness reviews'' by appointees that really aren't hard to figure out. It is about secretive political interference.

What we are seeing with the Freedom of Information Act is inconsistent with the intent of Congress, and it is wrong. The importance of government openness and honesty with the American people ought to be a bipartisan proposition. It is in the interest of everyone—Democrats and Republicans—to protect the Freedom of Information Act from evasion and protect it from abuse. That is part of why this new Interior policy on the Freedom of Information Act is so troubling.

As I mentioned, on Friday, the Interior inspector general confirmed to me that Mr. Jorjani is currently under investigation for his role in this Freedom of Information Act policy. For colleagues who may be following this, let's just understand what is going on: We are getting ready to vote on whether to advance somebody who is under a formal inspector general investigation. The fact that the inspector general is investigating such a serious matter ought to be enough all by itself to stop this nomination from going forward.

Certainly, Mr. Jorjani's own words about how he views the job—not about protecting the public but about protecting someone like Ryan Zinke—ought to be disqualifying. If Mr. Jorjani is confirmed, the person who will be in charge of ethics at the Interior Department told colleagues his job was to protect a crook. That is what he said.

Colleagues, this administration in too many instances has made deceit and unethical conduct the norm at the Interior Department. Trump officials have sidelined the Department's core purpose, which is to protect our treasured public lands on behalf of all Americans. Too often, it seems, they side with special interests that will pollute America's air, poison the drinking water, fuel climate change, and destroy the treasures that Americans all love.

At some point the U.S. Senate ought to draw the line. I think the Jorjani nomination is such a place.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the nomination. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting no.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 295 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Crapo	Johnson
Barrasso	Cruz	Kennedy
Blackburn	Daines	King
Blunt	Enzi	Lankford
Boozman	Ernst	Lee
Braun	Fischer	Manchin
Burr	Gardner	McConnell
Capito	Grassley	McSally
Cassidy	Hawley	Moran
Collins	Hoeven	Murkowski
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Murphy
Cotton	Inhofe	Paul
Cramer	Isakson	Perdue
Portman	Sasse	Thune
Risch	Scott (FL)	Toomey
Roberts	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Romney	Shelby	Young
Rounds	Sinema	
Rubio	Sullivan	

NAYS—37

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Rosen
Bennet	Hassan	Schatz
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kaine	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Wyden
Durbin	Peters	
Feinstein	Reed	

NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Jones	Warren
Graham	Sanders	Whitehouse
Harris	Tillis	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 37.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 296 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	McConnell	Thune
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	

NOT VOTING—9

Booker	Jones	Warner
Graham	Sanders	Warren
Harris	Tillis	Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2025. (Reappointment)

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2025, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 297 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Alexander	Feinstein	Murphy
Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Bennet	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hassan	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Romney
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cardin	Inhofe	Rubio
Carper	Isakson	Sasse
Casey	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shaheen
Coons	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sinema
Cotton	Leahy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	McSally	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Wyden
Ernst	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—25

Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Markey	Smith
Cantwell	Menendez	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Tester
Duckworth	Murray	Udall
Durbin	Peters	Van Hollen
Gillibrand	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—9

Blackburn	Harris	Tillis
Booker	Jones	Warren
Graham	Sanders	Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 66, the nays are 25.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:06 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I want to address an issue for my colleagues, something a lot of Senators have been talking about more recently, and none too soon—the Mexico-Canada agreement with the United States, a very important trade agreement.

President Trump and the leaders of Mexico and Canada signed the USMCA on November 30, 2018, which was 43 weeks ago. More than 3 months have passed since Mexico ratified the USMCA, and Canada's ratification is well underway. However, the U.S. Congress must do its part, and time is running short.

We have a limited opportunity to ratify the USMCA before election politics get in the way of securing this very critical win for literally every broad industry sector in America. I therefore urge the administration and House Democrats not only to intensify discussions on the USMCA but also to expedite those discussions and to present USMCA to the Congress.

By now, everyone should know very well that Mexico and Canada are by far America's most important trading partners. In 2017, America sold more than a half trillion dollars of exports to Mexico and Canada. Those were more exports than we sold to the next 11 largest export markets combined. For Iowa, my State, 130,000 jobs were supported by the $6.6 billion of exports to Mexico and Canada in the same year of 2017.

These numbers are not just academic statistics. During the August State work period, I completed my 39th year holding Q and A's in every one of Iowa's 99 counties, and I consistently heard from Iowans that passing the USMCA ought to be a very top priority for the Congress.

I joined the former Governor of Iowa and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, at a dairy processing plant in Des Moines. This meeting, with one Republican and one Democrat appreciating the great contributions of Iowa agriculture to our Nation and to exports, demonstrated what I heard at my town meetings—that passing the USMCA should be a bipartisan priority.

In Cedar Falls, IA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary, Bill Northey, and I held a roundtable discussion with various commodity groups about the farm economy and the certainty that passing USMCA would bring to the agricultural community, particularly to the family farmers.

USMCA was also a focal point when I held meetings at manufacturing plants, such as Altec in Osceola, IA, and AIM Aerospace in Orange City, IA. I can state firsthand that people in the real world—people living outside of the Washington Beltway—want Congress to pass the USMCA as soon as possible.

My county meetings help me better represent Iowans, and it is clear to me that Iowans support the USMCA. We can't squander this opportunity to update NAFTA, which has been critical to American farmers and businesses but is now a quarter century old. Issues negotiated in the USMCA were not issues 25 years ago, showing just how out of date NAFTA is, as well as the importance of the USMCA.

USMCA will bring greater market access for agriculture and important new commitments in areas such as customs, digital trade, intellectual property, labor, the environment, currency, and nontariff trade barriers. These updates and upgrades will translate into higher wages, greater productivity, and consequently more jobs for Americans.

In fact, the independent U.S. International Trade Commission found that USMCA will create nearly 176,000 new American jobs while adding more than $68 billion to America's GDP.

Let's not forget, USMCA was a hard-fought negotiation. For Mexico, two Presidents worked across opposing administrations to get this job done. Canada initially held out of the agreement altogether, only to sign on at the last possible opportunity.

It is easy for Members of Congress to talk about how we would have negotiated the agreement differently. There is some talk like that going on. That would be true whether you are a Republican or Democrat. However, as the U.S. International Trade Commission report made very clear, USMCA is a major advancement from the 25-year-old NAFTA agreement. This is certainly true for labor and the environment, which were mere side agreements to NAFTA 25 years ago. Now these issues addressed in USMCA are some of the strongest obligations ever to have been included in any U.S. trade agreement. Simply put, we can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and calling the USMCA ''good'' would be a serious understatement.

The administration did its job and brought us a modernized trade agreement. Nevertheless, the administration has listened to the concerns of House Democrats and has proposed actions to address those concerns. For my part, I have kept an open mind throughout this process, and I welcome any workable, bipartisan solutions. However, given the political calendar that lies ahead, I need those solutions promptly. We simply don't have any more time to spare.

Iowans and all Americans deserve some much needed certainty on access to our half-trillion-dollar export markets in Mexico and Canada, and it is the job of this Congress to deliver. The time for USMCA is right now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

BUDGET DEFICIT

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I rise to call attention to our Federal Government's unsustainable fiscal path.

Earlier this month the Congressional Budget Office reported that Federal

revenues are up 3 percent, or $102 billion, compared to the same time period last year. The problem is that Federal spending grew by 7 percent, or $271 billion, over that same period. CBO projects the deficit for this year to reach $960 billion, which means that 22 cents of every dollar the government spends is borrowed.

All of that borrowing doesn't come cheap. In the first 11 months of the year, net interest payments on the public debt totaled $391 billion. That is up $48 billion, or 14 percent, over the previous year.

To put that in context, $391 billion is roughly 2½ times what we spend each year on the U.S. Air Force. It is more than 12 times the size of the budget of the entire U.S. Department of Justice and more than 5 times the size of the budget for the U.S. Department of Education. That is $391 billion spent with nothing to show for it. It is just like running up credit card debt and owing a whole bunch of interest without getting anything for it. That is what our future generation is really going to have to worry about.

What is worse, unless something is done to change our current trajectory, annual net interest costs are projected to more than double in the next 10 years. CBO projects that over the next decade we will spend more than $5.8 trillion on net interest costs. All the while, our debt will continue to mount. That doesn't pay down anything; that just pays the interest, and that is calculated at a pretty low interest rate. We could be faced with higher interest rates, which could easily double what we are paying right now.

We have been fortunate that despite Congress's spendthrift ways, the U.S. dollar remains the dominant global reserve currency, which allows our government to borrow more cheaply than anybody else. But what if that changes? What if foreign interests decide that our fiscal dysfunction is simply too great and the dollar is no longer a safe bet?

The threat of a fiscal crisis is not something anyone should take lightly. Last month, the CBO—that is the Congressional Budget Office, which does all the calculations—warned: ''If Federal debt as a percentage of [gross domestic product] continued to rise at the pace the Congressional Budget Office projects that it would under current law . . . [t]hat debt path would [ultimately] pose significant risks to the fiscal and economic outlook.''

While the Congressional Budget Office notes that those risks are not currently apparent in financial markets, it goes on to warn that the projected path of rising debt would increase ''the risk of a fiscal crisis . . . in which the interest rate on federal debt rises abruptly because investors have lost confidence in the U.S. government's fiscal position.''

As a father and a grandfather, this is a concern that keeps me up at night. What kind of burden are we placing on our children and on our grandchildren? They could face a future of less growth and economic opportunity as a result of our refusal to make difficult fiscal decisions.

What if we actually had to make massive cuts? We don't make cuts at all. What if we had to do massive cuts? Of course, we could raise revenue, but there is always the side effect of raising revenue, which costs jobs and then reduces revenue. There are a lot of tricky balances that have to be done.

This problem didn't arise overnight, and it will not be fixed overnight either. Congress should be working together with the administration now to begin the long process of fiscal course correction. Unfortunately, we are not off to a great start.

Prior to the August State work period, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, which increased discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 by a combined $322 billion. That is the increase. This essentially marks the end of the Budget Control Act period of federal budgeting. In a form that was all too common, a tool that was meant to bring fiscal constraint met its end with a whimper, when it probably should have been a scream.

The last cap deal—which CBO tells us will cost nearly $2 trillion over the next 10 years if we continue spending at those levels over that time period—featured $77 billion in offsets.

What is an offset? That is finding some money to cover the amount of spending. I think you heard correctly there. The cap deal put us on a path to spend nearly $2 trillion over the next 10 years with $77 billion—billion with a ''b''—in offsets, which is money to cover the debt. To make matters worse, those offsets will not even begin to kick in until the latter part of the next decade. In other words, we are saying there is a little patch of money out there that we haven't spent in the future yet, and it isn't going to come in for 10 years, but let's go ahead and spend it right now, and we will call that an offset to reduce the amount of debt we are creating. Boy, everybody wishes they could do that with their own spending, I am sure.

The offsets—the money to cover the debt, which is the mere $77 billion on $2 trillion—will not come in until the latter part of the next decade. In other words, we are spending money from 10 years down the road right now and calling it payment on the money we are spending.

Even with this turn of events, everyone seems to agree that discretionary spending is not the main source of our budget challenge. The Congressional Budget Office projects America's debt will continue to increase rapidly over the next several decades because of mandatory spending.

What is mandatory spending? That is spending we don't make a decision on at all. Those payments go on no matter what, and they are pretty important ones because they include things like Social Security and the major health programs and interest on the debt. That is mandatory. We can't bankrupt on paying the interest, so Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and interest on the debt are some of the main expenditures we make, and we never make any decisions on them. We do not change them. We don't improve them.

For decades, nonpartisan experts warned of budget pressures we would face as baby boomers aged and began to retire. That is already happening, but that crisis is always tomorrow. We only handle today's crises. I can't imagine how tomorrow's people are going to handle the crisis that is being created at the present time. The combination of aging population, longer lifespans, and rising per beneficiary healthcare costs put enormous pressure on our budget.

These warnings from the Congressional Budget Office, the actuaries, and many other people, you name it, continue to be ignored. We are now in a world where these pressures are very real and something we will need to face before we go off the cliff in a few short years.

We know the Social Security trust fund and Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund are now paying out more than they are taking in. We also know Social Security's combined trust funds will be exhausted in 2032. ''That is way down the road.'' No, it is not. The Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund—which covers inpatient hospital services, hospice care, skilled nursing facilities, and home health services—is projected to be depleted in 2026. That is not very far. If we continue to do nothing once their respective trust funds are exhausted, these programs will still be able to pay out some money, but they will only be able to pay out as much in benefits as they have coming in. I mentioned that we have a lot less coming in than we are paying out. For Medicare, that means we will only be able to pay 86 percent of hospital-related Medicare spending. For Social Security, revenue is projected to cover only 76 percent of scheduled benefits. I don't know many seniors who can afford a 24-percent cut.

I want to make sure Social Security and Medicare are able to provide benefits to current beneficiaries, as well as those who need them in the future. That will require being clear-eyed about the problem and working together in a bipartisan manner to ensure that these programs are solvent. The normal technique on trying to solve any of these problems is to point the finger at the other side and say it is their fault and they are not doing anything about it. Well, we are all going to have to do something about it. We are talking about a 24-percent cut in Social Security.

The longer we wait to address the imbalance, the more severe the changes will be and the fewer options we will have. I remember looking at these

problems in the year 2000, and at that time there were quite a few options, but all were rejected. Today there are a lot less options and a bigger cliff. We need to change the way we do things in Washington. We simply cannot afford to continue ignoring the challenges our country faces.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I rise to talk about a topic that is boring at times but is absolutely critical, as you just heard in the last few minutes. My good friend from Wyoming, Senator ENZI, is a certified public account. He lived in the real world before he came here, like I did. He is chairman of the Budget Committee. When he speaks about this, he speaks with the level of experience and current information that we all should listen to.

I want to highlight some things he has already talked about but then talk about the potential we are looking at this week in terms of having our 187th continuing resolution since the 1974 Budget Act was put into law. Why is this important? As Senator ENZI just pointed out, our problem in America is twofold; one, we have a global security crisis, and we have a financial crisis. I use the word ''crisis'' in both because the world has never been more dangerous in my lifetime.

Today we have $22 trillion in debt. Let me put a little history behind it. In the year 2000, we had $6 trillion on about a $12 trillion economy. At the end of President Bush's time, it went to $10 trillion of debt—again, on something like a $14 trillion or $15 trillion economy. At the end of President Obama's term, it went to $20 trillion. Under that administration, this government doubled America's debt to $20 trillion. After just a couple of years of President Trump, we are now at $22 trillion.

The projection is very draconian over the next decade, even though, by growing the economy in the last couple of years, the Trump administration has actually lowered the debt curve by an estimate that CBO says is about $3 trillion over the next decade. That is not good enough. That is only a fraction of our problem.

This chart on the right talks about the problem. I call it the LAMAR ALEXANDER chart because when we talked about it 2 years ago, we started bringing this chart up. Working on the budget process is one of the ways we deal with this. This burgeoning debt that we have to talk about is really made up of one major contributing factor; that is, mandatory expenses.

This chart tries to explain that. It shows that the top line here is total U.S. spending. Today we spend about $4.5 trillion—a little bit more—but about $4.5 trillion funding the Federal Government. That includes everything: Military, Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid—the whole bit. The Federal Government spends about $4.5 trillion on everything.

The red line is today. Today, however, we only spend $1.3 trillion on discretionary spending. Yet in terms of the total, in 2000 we spent less than $2 trillion. Now we are spending more than $4 trillion. That has doubled in the last two decades. These are constant 2019 dollars.

In the next 20 years, this is projected to go from $4 trillion to $12 trillion per year, each year. In 1 year projected out here, we would almost double the amount of debt we have. This is untenable under anybody's estimate. It can't happen. It will not happen. Here is why. The world can't let it happen.

Today we have about $200 trillion in total debt. Only $60 trillion of that is sovereign debt, which is government debt. We have one-third of that. This says that because of mandatory spending, primarily, we will go to almost half of the world's debt with 5 percent of the population. That is not going to happen.

Yet what will happen to keep us from doing that or becoming that will be really draconian unless we act today. Senator ENZI is right. The sooner we act, the more alternatives and options we have. Let me try to explain the situation. We are actually spending less today in discretionary spending at $1.3 trillion as a percentage of our economy than we did in 2011. In 2011, we were spending 9 percent of our total GDP on discretionary spending.

What is in discretionary spending? That is the military, most of the VA, and all discretionary spending, such as Health and Human Services, Labor, Agriculture, Justice Department, Treasury. All of the above are included in that. That is $1.3 trillion today, which is about 6 percent. We have gone from 9 percent GDP to 6 percent GDP. Discretionary spending has actually been brought down.

What is the problem? The problem is in mandatory. What is in mandatory? As Senator ENZI just said, mandatory is Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, pension benefits on Federal employees, and the interest on the debt. Just in the next 2 years alone, mandatory spending goes up $420 billion. I can project that. That is within range of understanding. What I don't understand is how this really explodes out of control. This is because the baby boomers are maturing and going into the later years of their lives. As you just heard, both Social Security and Medicare—major trust funds—go to zero in a very short period of time. Medicare happens in 2026 and Social Security in 2032.

I am here to tell you this is the crisis of our time, and we have to deal with it. Yet today we are about to go into our 187th continuing resolution. Why? Because we don't have an agreement to fund the government. We are at the end of our fiscal year, which is September 30. We have 2 working days left, the way the Senate works, before that happens. It could still be fixed, but the reality of today is that we have not appropriated one dime for the Federal Government yet.

Last year, going into August break on July 31, we had only funded 12 percent of the Federal Government. Because we stayed here in August, we funded up to 75 percent of the government. That was the first time in 22 years that we had gotten that far. As a matter of fact, in the last 45 years, this Congress has only funded the Federal Government on time four times. We have actually shut the government down 21 times because of the lack of funding. That is almost once every 2 years. It is unbelievable.

This year, in July, we had an agreement. We did a caps deal between the Democrats and Republicans. It was a bipartisan deal. Everybody went kumbaya and said: Yes, this is what we agreed to. We agree to this topline number. Appropriators had already been working all year. We had agreements in committee. All we had to do was come back in September and appropriate these bills, go to conference on the NDAA, and get the Defense Department funded along with the other major departments and go ahead down the road and get the government funded.

Here we are at the end of September. That obviously did not happen. Why? Our good friends across the aisle violated what we thought was a good-faith agreement in July that there would be no poison pills when we started appropriating. We see clearly now that wasn't the case. They are holding this up over $5 billion that the President wants to move from military spending over to border security spending. It is almost like they want open borders. I just don't understand this.

We know President Obama built 135 miles of wall, and we know one thing now. We know that where President Obama built a wall, where President Bush built a wall, where President Clinton built a wall, where President George H. W. Bush—in every single case, illegal crossings at the border went down 95 percent.

By voting no on this spending bill, we are now getting into a situation where we have to go into a continuing resolution. Last week, we voted on the Defense bill, and Democrats voted it down. They voted against a 3.1-percent pay increase for our military brethren.

What is even worse than that, by going into a continuing resolution and by voting no last week, the Democrats are encouraging the Defense Department to actually spend $4 billion. We did an audit last year. It was the first one in the history of the United States. President Trump ordered it. We had a law in 1991 that required it. Now we had that audit. This is the first pass. This is the tip of the iceberg. Because of that, we know that we found at least $4 billion that they don't want to continue spending, yet are going to be obliged to continue to spend against those obsolete programs under a continuing resolution, in addition to not

getting a pay raise to our people in the military.

We should not have been here in the first place. We had a joint select committee last year, and we have been working on this for 5 years. It is time to fix this budget process once and for all. We have to hold Congress accountable, though. In most States, we don't have this problem. In 44 States, No. 1, you have a balanced budget law, but more importantly than that, in States like Georgia, if the legislature doesn't fund the government by the end of the legislative session, by law, the legislators don't go home.

Senator LANKFORD and I and others have bills that would require the same thing here. As a matter of fact, some of us have actually put in bills that would stop the pay for staff and employees and would stop Members' compensation until we get this done. A requirement of our job here is to get the government funded.

It is very simple. It is time for Congress to do its job. I am chagrined that we face another continuing resolution that we have educated people about and will cost hundreds of billions of dollars over a decade because of the damage it will do to the supply chain when we are trying to get readiness and recapitalization back in our U.S. military and talk about rationalization. It keeps us from doing each of those three things right now.

Anybody in the military who is before us in committee tells us over and over and over of the damaging effects a continuing resolution has on our military at the very time when we are trying to stand up to peer pressures in a unique, new way. We have five threats across five domains. We have never faced that before. Yet here we are, hamstringing our military once again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, last weekend, the world watched as an attack was launched on the oil processing infrastructure of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The attack initially reduced Saudi Arabia's daily output capability by half, and that represents about 5 percent of the daily global production. Oil prices around the globe spiked by as much as 19 percent before starting to fall on the news that there was enough oil in reserves around the world to deal with any short-term reduction from Saudi Arabia. One of those reserve nations they were talking about, of course, included this great Nation, the United States.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is important to maintain. I think we all recognize that, especially in light of the attack on Saudi Arabia. Yet I have always believed and had the mindset that we need long-term energy supply solutions in this country. As the attack on Saudi Arabia has displayed, there is no foreign substitute for American energy.

Should this attack on Saudi Arabia have happened before our Nation's energy renaissance, we would have been in a much worse situation. The near monopolistic control other nations once had on the oil and gas market no longer exist—a credit to American ingenuity and innovation. Over the last decade, we have had a turning point in this country on energy, which is something that leaders around the world talk to and point to in the United States. We have produced more oil and gas, we have improved energy conservation, and we have diversified our energy sources.

In 2015, we got rid of another handcuff to securing energy independence. We lifted the export ban on oil. That policy change both boosted America's domestic energy industry and is helping today to settle markets after the attack in Saudi Arabia. Lifting the ban has unleashed millions of barrels of oil into the marketplace, which has kept prices steady and reduced the influence of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, and Russia. Think about that, what the United States has done to reduce that influence.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. petroleum and natural gas production increased by 16 percent and 12 percent respectively in 2018. These totals combined established a new production record. The United States surpassed Russia in 2011 to become the world's largest producer of natural gas and surpassed Saudi Arabia in 2018 to become the world's largest producer of petroleum. Last year's increase in the United States was also one of the largest absolute petroleum and natural gas production increases in history from a single country.

The United States continues this trend toward energy independence, and that is a good thing. Yet, despite these successes, there are those who want to not just stop this trend but who fully intend to reverse our energy independence. Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have endorsed a Federal fracking ban. They want to ban the very production that gave us energy independence, that gave us independence from OPEC and Russia. They have endorsed ending fossil fuel exports, and they have endorsed eliminating energy development on Federal land. Yet, tell me, do any of these policies actually result in more affordable energy prices? Do these policies make energy more reliable? Do these policies keep the price at the pump down? Do these policies keep our allies across the globe safer? Do these policies keep our troops safer?

Let's take gas prices. If my Democratic colleagues were truly concerned about the impact of gas prices on their constituents' pocketbooks, I am curious if any of them would come up with a calculation of what gas prices would be after the ban of hydraulic fracturing, the stopping of exporting fossil fuels to the global market, and the stopping of energy development on Federal land. What would the price be? I guarantee you that there wouldn't be very much opportunity or at least very much comfort for their constituents.

Over 20 percent of the crude oil produced in this country in 2018 came from Federal land. There is little doubt that eliminating 20 percent of the supply of oil would have a significant impact on gas prices. Yet that is exactly what several have called for. Fracking has extended the productive life and resource recovery at the Bakken, Eagle Ford Shale, Marcellus Shale, Niobrara, and Permian Basin formations, just to name a few.

As a matter of fact, the U.S. Geological Survey published an updated assessment of the Permian Basin's resources in 2018. By itself, the Permian already produces one-third of the Nation's oil, and the updated assessment estimates that over 46 billion barrels of oil, 280 trillion cubic feet of gas, and 20 billion barrels of natural gas liquids are trapped in these low-permeability shale formations. The Nation's supply of oil and gas reserves essentially doubled in the blink of an eye, according to that report.

Colorado's Western Slope is home to the Piceance Basin. In 2016, the USGS issued a similarly larger reassessment of the recoverable resources in the Piceance. The USGS estimated mean volumes of 66.3 trillion cubic feet of gas, 74 million barrels of oil, and 45 million barrels of natural gas liquids.

The Uinta-Piceance Basin that covers western Colorado and eastern Utah has an abundant supply of natural gas that could be exported through a west coast liquefied natural gas terminal, like Jordan Cove, to our allies in the Pacific.

We have enough energy resources to meet our domestic needs and to meet the needs of energy overseas. So let's relish that fact. Rarely do we have a chance to provide economic opportunities here at home, to provide energy security to our partners abroad and make sure our allies have those opportunities as well, and to use the innovation and the investments we have made here to weaken our enemies all in one area, like in energy production.

Let's think about what the world would look like if we had not moved in the direction of increased domestic production in recent years.

The decline of Venezuela's oil production over the last 12 years and the resulting political instability in the country would have hurt the import ability of the United States. OPEC and Russia would have a significantly larger role than they do today in determining the global production levels,

and we have seen how that has played out for the United States in the past. We could very well be where China is today—overly dependent on imports from Saudi Arabia and terrified at the slightest hiccup in its production ability, which could have far-reaching consequences for our economy or, rather, we would find ourselves exactly where we were in 1973.

That is where we will end up if my colleagues get their way and ban energy production, hydraulic fracturing, or pass the Green New Deal, as they would like. These policies would make us once again dependent on foreign sources of energy and make us vulnerable to the geopolitical manipulation that comes with that dependence.

As recently as 2005, we were dependent on imports for two-thirds of our oil consumption—more than twice what we were reliant on in 1973 when we had a supply crisis during the embargo. If that were still true today, this attack on Saudi Arabia would be a significant cause of concern for the United States and for the U.S. oil supply. Yet, because of the pursuit of energy independence in the United States and the security we have achieved through these innovations and developments, we are confident that we can weather short-term supply disruptions in the global market.

Banning production, banning the development of energy in Colorado, or implementing policies like the Green New Deal would kill not only our opportunity to be energy independent and weather the storm of a global supply crisis, but it would also kill millions of jobs around the United States that pay far above average wages. The oil and gas industry supports over 10 million jobs in the United States, and it accounts for almost 8 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States. The jobs have an average salary of over $100,000 a year. These are good-paying jobs that enable people to provide for their families, contribute to domestic energy security and our goal of energy independence, and they will allow us the ability to send a responsibly developed resource to our allies overseas who want a dependable trade partner.

Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, though, simply want to do away with this industry, those jobs, those salaries, that freedom, the independence, and the prosperity that it brings.

Instead of talking about putting our traditional energy sources out of business, why don't we talk about hardening our energy infrastructure, protecting these critical assets, and continuing to responsibly produce those resources for us, the environment, and for the world? Doing so is a win for the United States. It is also a win for our communities and those who wish to partner with us in order to fuel the world's economy.

It is incredibly important that we have energy independence, and I can't think of a more disruptive crisis the world could have faced had this happened in a country in which we no longer had the production that we do today. I hope we can work together on energy policies that continue to create jobs and grow the American economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Colorado.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. CON. RES. 10

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, several months ago, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had the opportunity to sit down with the Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, to talk about a number of concerns around the globe, including our concerns about Huawei and ZTE and the fact that Huawei and ZTE pose serious threats to the national security of the United States and its allies.

At the time, there had been a lot of discussion about what was happening in Europe and other places around the globe and about whether Huawei would be allowed to participate in our allies' networks and what that could mean for U.S. national security and our ability to continue to engage in national security conversations, intelligence operations, sharing of information, and the like.

In that conversation, Secretary Pompeo said—and this was the entire group of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, both Republican and Democratic Members—in that conversation, Secretary Pompeo said that what would help would be to let Congress's voice be heard when it comes to Huawei and ZTE and that we should send a strong message to our allies that our concern with Huawei and ZTE is not a Republican issue, it is not a Democratic issue, it is not just a one-term-of-Congress concern, but it is an ongoing concern that we have with the security of our systems, our information, the lack of security and the vulnerability that Huawei and ZTE networks and equipment pose to the United States; that we send a message to our allies in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion that if they go forward and allow Huawei or ZTE to have access to their critical infrastructure networks, then that is going to pose problems for the United States; that we may have to tell them: Look, this kind of action could have consequences; that perhaps we don't share as much information with them as we otherwise would, or it could mean that certain facilities we were going to build together won't be built but all because of our concern over Huawei and ZTE.

I want to thank my colleagues, Senators COONS, MARKEY, CRUZ, and RUBIO, who have joined me in cosponsoring this resolution.

I want to thank Chairman RISCH and Ranking Member CARDIN for working with my office to get this resolution condemning and making a very strong statement against the actions of Huawei and ZTE back in July.

Again, Huawei and ZTE pose a serious threat to the United States and our allies around the globe. This resolution makes clear many of the longstanding and bipartisan efforts we have made together to warn about the threats these companies pose to our critical telecommunications infrastructure. It further makes clear that the United States should reiterate to countries choosing to incorporate Huawei or ZTE into their new telecommunications infrastructure that the United State will seek to limit the risks posed to our government and military from use of such compromised networks.

This is an issue that shouldn't be bound by partisanship; it ought to cut across the Members of this Chamber who agree on condemning the actions of Huawei and ZTE and standing up for our national security. That is why I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 136, S. Con. Res. 10. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the Gardner amendment at the desk to the preamble be considered and agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, Huawei presents a very real threat to the security of every American, both individually and collectively. I have long been concerned that the Trump administration was going to let Huawei off the hook in order to get a politically useful trade deal. As the ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over trade matters, that concerns me greatly. In addition, I am concerned that the resolution being offered does not go far enough to protect America's national security and hold the Trump administration accountable.

Tomorrow there will be another bipartisan measure offered that, in my view, will better address the concerns I have just mentioned, and therefore I must object this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, tomorrow I plan to vote for the motion to instruct, which is in regard to language within the Defense Authorization Act that talks about the importance of protecting our national security interests against Huawei and ZTE. But when we are objecting to resolutions that are bipartisan because of motions to instruct that have no binding nature, I am concerned that perhaps we are not doing enough work to

find those bipartisan solutions in this Chamber.

So I hope, as I come back to this floor again to consider S. Con. Res. 10, to warn our allies that if they use Huawei or ZTE, there will be repercussions.

The resolution itself is bipartisan. I hope we can come together as a Senate and recognize that motions to instruct are fine, but actual messages, condemnation, and understanding of our allies that actions will be taken are important.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to discuss the need to bolster our Nation's energy security following the recent attacks on Saudi Arabian oil.

Having read the classified briefing in full, I am convinced that Iran is absolutely behind the attacks. Now, Iran wants to drive up world oil prices to hopefully, in their mind, increase the amount of revenue they would get from selling their oil. Basically, they need the money, and that is because the sanctions that the United States has imposed on Iran have worked. They have been punishing. That is why President Trump, I believe, made the right call in adding even tougher sanctions. The sanctions have been biting, and Iran's currency has been significantly devalued. Now is the time to step up our own American energy production.

Since my Senate arrival in 2007, I have worked to advance pro-growth energy policies throughout that entire time. My goal has always been to promote American energy, to safeguard U.S. workers, and to protect this great Nation.

Today, the United States is the world's top energy producer. We are a global leader in oil, as well as in natural gas. In fact, the United States is poised to become the world's top energy exporter, as well, and my home State of Wyoming has been a key driver in all of this success.

To reach this goal, we are going to need to leverage our energy sources. This includes zero-emission nuclear power, as well as renewable energy. We need it all. In the Senate, I believe both parties want Americans to use more carbon-free energy. So both parties should embrace sensible, scientific solutions. Yet Democrats, once again, are pushing more of their radical proposals. That is what we have to deal with.

Two weeks ago, House Democrats passed several anti-energy bills. These measures would lock up key offshore and Alaskan oil reserves. The majority of House Democrats have cosponsored these scary schemes that would damage our economy.

If the House Democrats' anti-energy bills ever were to become law—and I assure you that the Republican Senate and President Trump will never allow that to happen—they would be a real gift to our foreign enemies and to our adversaries, like Russia, because Russia routinely uses natural gas as a geopolitical weapon.

Still, 2020 Presidential candidate ELIZABETH WARREN, a Member of our Senate, recently unveiled a plan to ban hydraulic fracturing. This revolutionary technique has led to a renaissance for American energy production, and she wants to ban it.

Last year, Senator WARREN's home State of Massachusetts imported Russian natural gas. Where did they import it from? People all across the country and the world saw the Russian natural gas tanker in Boston Harbor. Let me repeat. Let me be very clear. Last year, Senator WARREN's home State of Massachusetts imported Russian natural gas through the Boston Harbor. At the same time, the Senator has denounced U.S. pipelines and other U.S. energy infrastructure projects—this, as her own State pays one of highest utility rates anywhere in the country.

Not only do the Democrats' politicized policies dramatically increase Americans' energy costs, but they are also a threat to our national security. No matter, Senator WARREN also wants to ban nuclear power. She doesn't like fracking. She doesn't like natural gas. She now wants to ban nuclear power. Has she forgotten that nuclear energy is America's chief carbon-free power source? Twenty percent of U.S. electricity comes from nuclear power. These reckless Democrat proposals would make the United States more dependent on unstable foreign energy markets.

Working families here in the United States should never overpay on their energy bills due to foolish policies—and that is what they are, foolish policies that make us all vulnerable. The American public is not going to stand for it.

According to a recent Washington Post-Kaiser Foundation poll, more than 70 percent of Americans have said they don't want to pay even $10 more on their monthly electric bills to lower carbon emissions. We want to lower carbon emissions. How much are families willing to pay? Seventy percent say not $10 a month. How about $2 a month? A majority said, no, that is too much to pay.

So we need to pursue a commonsense energy strategy—one that keeps working families' costs down, one that keeps the economy strong, and one that helps keep our Nation safe.

Republicans are committed to protecting and advancing America's energy independence. President Trump understands how important this is. In the wake of the attacks on Saudi Arabia, not only is the President working to expand sanctions, but he is moving to approve major pipeline projects as well.

One of the energy issues I am addressing now in the Senate is reforming the permit process for American energy exploration. Earlier this Congress, I introduced a piece of legislation called the ONSHORE Act. It stands for Opportunities for the Nation and States to Harness Onshore Resources for Energy. The ONSHORE Act will simplify the process for Federal onshore oil and gas permits. Whether we are talking about promoting energy exploration, utilities, carbon capturing, or nuclear power, we must engineer our way to American energy solutions.

Republicans recognize our Nation's unique ability to fill in the gaps from global supply disruptions. So our focus needs to be on promoting American energy independence. It is time to reject the Democrats' extreme schemes once and for all. What the Democrats are proposing is a real threat to our U.S. energy security, and they are offering a gift to American enemies.

We need to continue our America-first energy policy. That is what we are going to continue to do to keep us strong, to keep us safe, and to keep us prosperous as a nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. ROSEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

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

Ms. ROSEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 298 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Alexander	Cantwell	Cramer
Baldwin	Capito	Crapo
Barrasso	Cardin	Cruz
Bennet	Carper	Daines
Blackburn	Cassidy	Duckworth
Blumenthal	Collins	Durbin
Blunt	Coons	Enzi
Boozman	Cornyn	Ernst
Braun	Cortez Masto	Feinstein
Burr	Cotton	Fischer

Gardner	McConnell	Schumer
Graham	McSally	Scott (FL)
Grassley	Menendez	Scott (SC)
Hassan	Moran	Shaheen
Hawley	Murkowski	Shelby
Heinrich	Murphy	Sinema
Hirono	Murray	Smith
Hoeven	Paul	Stabenow
Hyde-Smith	Perdue	Sullivan
Inhofe	Peters	Tester
Isakson	Portman	Thune
Johnson	Reed	Toomey
Kaine	Risch	Udall
Kennedy	Roberts	Van Hollen
King	Romney	Warner
Klobuchar	Rosen	Wicker
Lankford	Rounds	Wyden
Leahy	Rubio	Young
Lee	Sasse	
Manchin	Schatz	

NAYS—6

Brown	Gillibrand	Merkley
Casey	Markey	Warren

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Jones	Tillis
Harris	Sanders	Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT RECEIVED ON AUGUST 12, 2019, BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE OF THE SENATE AND THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in August a public servant inside the intelligence community found the conduct of the President of the United States alarming enough to file an official whistleblower complaint. The inspector general of the intelligence community found this whistleblower complaint both credible and urgent. By law, the Director of National Intelligence must forward such a complaint to the congressional intelligence committees within 7 days of receiving it. Congress has been informed by the inspector general of the intelligence community in writing that the Trump administration is preventing that complaint from being sent to the relevant committees in Congress.

Those are the facts. The situation they describe is unacceptable. We know that the executive branch is blocking the legislative branch—a coequal branch of our government—from performing its constitutional oversight duties. The fact that the whistleblower complaint concerns our national security, our foreign policy, and potential misconduct by the President makes the situation even more serious.

In a short time, I will ask my colleagues' consent to pass a simple resolution. It essentially says ''that the whistleblower complaint received on August 12, 2019, by the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community shall be transmitted immediately to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.''

I cannot imagine any legitimate or straight-faced reason for an objection to this unanimous consent request. The only reason for any Senator to object would be to shield the President's conduct from scrutiny by the public and the representatives they elect to represent them; that is, to protect the President from accountability.

In a moment, I hope this resolution will pass without a single dissenting Senator, and it should.

The request, despite its noncontroversial nature, speaks to the issues that go back to the founding days of our Republic: checks and balances, the separation of powers, and the constitutional duty of the President and the executive branch to faithfully execute the laws of the United States. The Senate, today—right now—should speak with one unified voice to reaffirm those time-honored principles and defend the grand traditions of our democracy.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 325, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 325) expressing the sense of the Senate that the whistleblower complaint received on August 12, 2019, by the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community should be transmitted immediately to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, all of us share the concern for protecting whistleblowers who use appropriate, established channels to raise legitimate concerns. The Senate's obligation is to treat such allegations in a responsible and deliberate manner, to avoid racing to judgment based on media leaks, and to not fuel media speculation with reckless accusations.

There is much we do not know about the complaint lodged with the intelligence community's inspector general, including whether the complaint involves intelligence activities at all.

Before the Democratic leader elected to go to the media yesterday, the chairman and vice chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence had already been working together in a bipartisan manner—free from politicization—to get more information from both the Acting Director of National Intelligence and the intelligence community's inspector general. Given the progress the committee was making, I don't believe this made-for-TV moment was actually necessary. I would have preferred the committee be allowed to do its work in a quiet and methodical manner. It doesn't serve the committee or its goals to litigate its business here on the floor or for the television cameras.

Nevertheless, I agree that the DNI should make additional information available to the committee so it can evaluate the complaint consistent with the statute and other procedures that exist to safeguard classified and sensitive information.

I also want to express my appreciation for President Trump's announcement that the White House will release tomorrow the ''complete, fully-declassified, and unredacted transcript of [his] phone conversation with President Zelensky.'' I hope this will help to refocus the conversation away from reckless speculation and back toward the facts.

So, stipulating that our objective here is simply to conduct the kind of bipartisan oversight of intelligence matters that the committee has successfully conducted in the past, I have no objection to the Senator's request.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, three brief points. First, this resolution is not aimed at the Senate Intelligence Committees. Senators BURR and WARNER do a diligent job in trying to figure out what is going on. It is aimed at a thus far recalcitrant executive branch which has blocked the ability for the committees to see the complaint even though law requires it.

Second, it is welcomed that we can join together to do our job of oversight. I want to thank the majority leader for not blocking this request, because I think every one of us in this Chamber realizes the importance of oversight and the need to prevent an overreaching executive from going that far. Getting the transcript is a good step, but it is the complaint we need.

That is the gravamen of this resolution. It is the whistleblower's complaint, not the transcript, that we need and are asking for in this resolution.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 325) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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

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

Under the previous order, the Senate will resume the Cella nomination.

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 299 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Blackburn	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Burr	Inhofe	Rounds
Capito	Isakson	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	King	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sinema
Crapo	Manchin	Sullivan
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Murphy	

NAYS—38

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Rosen
Bennet	Hassan	Schatz
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kaine	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Feinstein	Reed	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Jones	Tillis
Harris	Sanders	Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to address a matter relating to the nomination of Daniel Jorjani to be Solicitor at the Department of Interior. In March, I joined a bipartisan, bicameral letter to Interior raising concerns about proposed updates to its Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, regulations. These changes appeared to shift the burden of identifying the location of agency hold records from the agency to the public, set limits on requests when they involve processing a ''vast quantity of material,'' and imposed a monthly limit on the processing of records for a given requester—all of which have no identifiable basis in the FOIA statute. Since then, reports indicated other concerning FOIA policies at Interior that could result in unlawful delays of FOIA responses—policies that were in place while Mr. Jorjani served as Deputy Solicitor, with key FOIA responsibilities. Over the weekend, Interior's inspector general confirmed an investigation into the FOIA process at Interior. I look forward to reading the results of this investigation and learning more about the development of these policies. If confirmed as Solicitor at Interior, Mr. Jorjani would oversee and resolve FOIA appeals, among other critically important transparency policies. As we have seen in successive administrations, FOIA requests are often viewed as the skunk at the picnic. But the government's business is the people's business. Going forward, Mr. Jorjani would do well to consult with Congress on any FOIA policy matters at Interior to ensure compliance with the law. I intend to vote for Mr. Jorjani today, but let me be clear: I will be holding him—and any others under any administration—accountable to faithful compliance with both the letter and spirit of FOIA.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 300 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Cornyn	Gardner
Barrasso	Cotton	Graham
Blackburn	Cramer	Grassley
Blunt	Crapo	Hawley
Boozman	Cruz	Hoeven
Braun	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Burr	Enzi	Inhofe
Capito	Ernst	Isakson
Cassidy	Fischer	Johnson
Kennedy	Perdue	Scott (FL)
Lankford	Portman	Scott (SC)
Lee	Risch	Shelby
McConnell	Roberts	Sullivan
McSally	Romney	Thune
Moran	Rounds	Toomey
Murkowski	Rubio	Wicker
Paul	Sasse	Young

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Peters	
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Jones	Tillis
Harris	Sanders	Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2025 (Reappointment).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I oppose the nomination of David Black to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security. I have longstanding concerns about how management at the Social Security Administration has treated the unions representing their workforce, and I am concerned about the role that Mr. Black may have played in these anti-union practices.

SSA was especially hostile towards its workers when it implemented the anti-union Executive orders that President Trump issued on May 25, 2018. SSA was one of the few agencies to evict unions from office space pursuant to the Executive orders, in the brief time before a Federal district court issued an injunction blocking key parts of the Executive orders. SSA also abrogated its unexpired contract with administrative law judges who are represented by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, which even the Executive orders themselves expressly prohibited.

After the Executive orders were blocked in court, SSA went to the Federal Service Impasses Panel to impose a contract on workers represented by the American Federation of Government Employees, and the terms of this contract were highly similar to provisions of the Executive orders. SSA is now using similar tactics against workers represented by National Treasury Employees Union.

We need to stop a bad situation from getting worse. The Senate should demand stronger commitments to improve labor relations from President Trump's nominees for leadership positions at SSA.

When SSA took these anti-union actions, Mr. Black was the White House senior adviser at the Social Security Administration. Despite Mr. Black's responsibility for SSA, he claimed in a letter to me that, ''I was not involved in SSA's implementation of the EOs.''

It is my understanding, however, that there is a pending Freedom of Information Act request that may shed new light on Mr. Black's involvement with the Executive orders. SSA has stated that an email records search generated thousands of emails that need to be reviewed for pertinence and disclosure in response to the request, and that review is still ongoing. I certainly hope that SSA's response will confirm Mr. Black's statement that he was not involved with the Executive orders, but the Senate should wait until all the facts are in before moving forward with his confirmation.

For those reasons, I will oppose Mr. Black's nomination at this time.

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

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 301 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Alexander	Feinstein	Murphy
Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Bennet	Gardner	Perdue
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hassan	Roberts
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Burr	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cardin	Inhofe	Sasse
Carper	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Casey	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kaine	Shaheen
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Coons	King	Sinema
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Leahy	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Warner
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McSally	Wyden
Enzi	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	

NAYS—26

Baldwin	Cantwell	Durbin
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Gillibrand
Brown	Duckworth	Heinrich
Hirono	Peters	Stabenow
Klobuchar	Reed	Tester
Markey	Rosen	Udall
Menendez	Schatz	Van Hollen
Merkley	Schumer	Warren
Murray	Smith	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Jones	Tillis
Harris	Sanders	Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Texas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

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

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on Sunday I had the great honor of joining President Trump in welcoming Prime Minister Modi to the Lone Star State in an event that was appropriately named ''Howdy, Modi.''

When his trip was announced, people on the west coast and the east coast wondered, ''Why Texas?'' They thought, maybe, he would go to Silicon Valley to talk to Big Tech executives or spend some time in Washington hobnobbing with diplomats and legislative leaders. Those are great places to visit, but Houston is the energy capital of the world. It is providing literal fuel for our growing relationship with the Nation of India.

After nearly a four-decade ban on U.S. crude oil exports was lifted, Texas sent the first American crude oil to India, and today India is increasingly running on American natural gas. The reason that is important is, when I visited India for the first time in 2004, I witnessed a country that is a study in contrast—some highly populated areas like Delhi and others, and then rural areas on the way to the Taj Mahal in Agra, you can see people literally living off the land and using dried cow manure as fuel for their food and for warmth. Obviously, India needs access to affordable energy that America—and Texas, in particular—can provide to help improve their standard of living.

This trade is also vital to our economy in Texas, and we will keep exporting our greatest natural resource to our friends in India and around the world as a result of the energy renaissance we have seen and as a result of the use of unconventional extraction techniques like fracking and horizontal drilling.

Those must sound like foreign words to people in Washington, DC, who think we ought to be able to live on solar panels and windmills exclusively, but I always say, as important as renewable energy is—and it is important—Texas generates the most electricity for any State in the Nation from wind turbines. The wind doesn't always blow and the Sun doesn't always shine, and you need some sort of baseload to try to keep the electricity flowing so people can be afforded the comforts of life and particularly in hot Texas summers make sure the air-conditioner continues to work.

For as deep as our economic ties are, our cultural ties are just as strong. Texas is home to a vibrant Indian diaspora, with more than 150,000 Indian Americans living in the Houston area alone and perhaps about half a million across our entire State. I was glad the Prime Minister had a chance to witness the Indian culture that is woven into the fabric of our State and meet a number of proud Indian Americans, including the 50,000 who showed up for the ''Howdy, Modi'' events in Houston on Sunday, from 48 States, I am told.

Knowing the importance of a strong U.S.-India relationship, 15 years ago I cofounded the U.S.-India Caucus in the Senate. That was at the request of one of my constituents who founded one of the Indo-American Chambers in the metroplex in Dallas, TX, years ago. He is the one who encouraged my wife and I to travel to India in the first place, where I learned a lot about the country—the study in contrasts I mentioned but also that this is the world's largest democracy, and we shared so many values with that country because of our common English heritage and particularly our respect for the rule of law and use of the English language predominantly.

We also saw the advantage of collaborating with India economically—1.3 billion people—a great market for the things we make and grow in the United States and a great way to raise the standard of living in India as we deepen our ties militarily and from a national security standpoint. The difference between today and what things were like as recently as 2008, in terms of trade, is just like night and day.

In 2016, the United States designated India as a ''major defense partner,'' with the goal of elevating our partnership with India to the same level as those of our other closest allies.

Since then, we have taken a number of steps to strengthen our defense relationship, such as establishing ministerial dialogue, increasing arms sales to India, and the first U.S.-India triservice exercise later this year. We have made real progress, but there is more we can do to ensure that our efforts are aligned, just as our interests are aligned. Particularly as China is on the march, having a strong and vibrant economy and a strong defense partner in India is more important than ever.

Earlier this year, I also introduced an amendment to the National Defense

Authorization Act, which requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on U.S.-India defense cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean within 180 days of enactment.

It will allow us to get a clearer picture of current military activities and will enable the Secretary of Defense to enter into military cooperation agreements and conduct regular joint military training and operations with India in the Western Indian Ocean. This would be a major step to bolster our relationship and strengthen our defense cooperation.

I am hopeful this provision will ultimately be included in the Defense authorization bill that is now going through the conference committee between the House and the Senate, and I am optimistic we will be able to get the President's signature and see this critical legislation enacted into law.

(Ms. MCSALLY assumed the Chair.)

TROPICAL STORM IMELDA

Madam President, briefly, on one other matter, Tropical Storm Imelda made landfall in Southeast Texas last week and dumped massive amounts of rain all across the region.

It is just 2 years after Hurricane Harvey, which is a more familiar name to people up here in DC, but the scenes are heartbreakingly similar. It wasn't the high winds so much as it was the incredible amount of water that was dumped into the Houston area and the surrounding counties. Neighborhood streets began to look more like rivers than roads. Folks were wading in the water, carrying children on their shoulders, and personal belongings washed away with raging floodwaters.

We have learned before, and we were reminded again, that these storms aren't only disruptive; they are incredibly dangerous. Five people have died as a result of the storm, and hundreds more remain displaced.

Imelda was the fifth wettest tropical cyclone in the continental United States, with some areas receiving more than 3½ feet of rain in a very short period of time. But as we have learned before, these trying times seem to somehow bring out the best in people.

A group of residents in the small community of Cheek, TX, waded through chest-high water to rescue nine horses. Furniture store owner Jim McIngvale, known to all of us as ''Mattress Mack,'' once again opened up his stores as a shelter for victims. His employees were running rescue operations, taking furniture trucks out to pick up those who had been stranded by high water. There was even a 21-year-old college student who worked all night alone at a Beaumont hotel for 32 hours straight. Not only did he singlehandedly manage a hotel, he and other guests ventured out into the flood to help distribute food and water to truckers stranded in their trucks.

I am grateful to the countless people who have helped their neighbors in big and small ways alike and who will no doubt continue supporting their communities in the months ahead.

For many Texans, this is the second time in 2 years they have had to recover from extraordinary flooding. The storm completely devastated communities throughout the southeast part of my State, and folks are just now beginning what will undoubtedly be a major cleanup effort.

With waters receding, local officials are now taking stock of the damage and moving from response to recovery. These rain events—these huge floods—are often more than any one city or one county can manage alone. It is an all-hands-on-deck moment that brings together local, State, and Federal officials, as well as nongovernmental organizations.

Governor Abbott declared a state of disaster in several counties to ensure State resources are available to local government agencies.

Last week, I spoke to many of the county judges who have jurisdiction over much of these flooded areas, the hardest hit areas, and I offered my support. I want to assure everyone who has been impacted by the storm that they are not alone and that we are committed to working together as State, local, and Federal officials to ensure that they have what they need to recover from this devastating Tropical Storm Imelda.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I want to express to the Senator from Texas our concern and our thoughts for all of those who have been so impacted.

DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

Madam President, the Senator from Texas mentioned the floods and the impact that had happened. I found out about some of the good work of the Good Samaritans in the area by watching what was taking place on social media, and I am certain millions of Americans saw firsthand some of the generosity and the help that was given there.

Indeed, the internet and social media platforms have transformed the way we communicate, the way we send out information, and many times the way we receive it. Correspondence that, just a few years ago, would have taken pen, paper, and postage is now sent and received with a simple click of a mouse.

Everything happens online, from communicating about disasters to shopping to party planning and to campaigning. We share photos and milestones with our ''friends.'' We let people know that we are OK in times of disasters or that we need help. We share all of this not only with our friends, but we are also sharing it with companies that have built multibillion-dollar empires based on their ability to convince us to surrender just one more little piece of unique data about us or about our families.

Beyond social media, we live our everyday transactional lives online also. We bank via apps. We sign up for credit cards using codes we have received in an email and manage our finances with cloud-based software. Information we once would have locked securely in a desk drawer, we now plug into an online forum without ever giving it a second thought.

We have contributed to our own, as I call it, ''virtual you''; that is, our personal online footprint unique to us, unique only to us. We have done this by trusting these platforms to keep our data secure. In a way, this level of connectivity and trust has made life a lot easier and more convenient, but it has also made us vulnerable to exploitation and exposure.

I have spoken before about consumers' justifiable expectation of a right to privacy online. This year, I introduced the BROWSER Act, which I had previously introduced when I was in the House. It is an effort to codify this right to privacy that consumers expect. BROWSER gives Big Tech basic guidelines to follow when collecting and selling user data, and that user is you.

It has become understood that you are the product when you are using these social media apps and experiencing this connectivity. You are the product. You have the right to know that you are that product, and you have the right to decide what is shared about your life. But protecting an individual's data is only part of this picture.

Last week, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology held a hearing to address the role that digital services play in the distribution of violent and extremist content. We welcomed testimony from Facebook, Twitter, and Google, detailing what they are doing to remove extremist content on platforms.

I will tell you, before we talk about policing content, we, as Members of this body, need to make sure we understand how the American people view their use of social media and the internet.

Whether social media platforms should be regulated under the First Amendment is beside the point. Americans view these services as open public forums, where they can speak their minds on everything from defense funding to the Emmy Awards. These consumers don't want the Wild West, nor do they want to be censored based on a content reviewer's subjective opinion. What they want is an objective cop on the beat—just as in the public square, an objective cop on the beat who is equipped to properly identify incitement, threats, and other types of speech that could put lives at risk.

This, of course, is easier said than done. In the case of Facebook, for example, that translates to creating a set of standards that 30,000 in-house engineers and analysts and 15,000 content reviewers will be able to apply—45,000 people, and that is just one platform.

There is a reason that time and again Big Tech executives look at Congress

and say ''Oh, more regulatory control over the way we do business,'' and it is this: Policing legitimately dangerous content is a big job, and policing ''awful but lawful'' content as Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg likes to call it, is an even bigger, more daunting task.

It takes 45,000 people to do a bare-minimum job for one company. Imagine trying to create easy-to-understand, bright-line standards that 45,000 employees will be able to digest and apply quickly enough to keep up with the flow of content. That has to be an intimidating task.

I will tell you, if those executives think the government could do a better job of deciding down to the letter what those standards should be, I think they are mistaken. Only the engineers and innovators know their companies well enough to set their own internal policies for acceptable uses of their platform, but that is not to say that I will not be taking an interest in their ideas.

We need to have a Federal standard of privacy and data security. We need to review censorship and prioritization, competition, and antitrust.

For example, Facebook is in the process of putting together a content oversight board to adjudicate users whose posts have been deemed in violation and taken down. They have pledged to make the identities of the moderators and their decisions public—barring any safety risks—and to choose a diverse panel. The biggest unanswered questions here are these: Will the moderators really reflect the American political spectrum? How will they be chosen? The American people will demand more than a promise to be fair and impartial.

As I said, government cannot make these decisions in total for Big Tech, but we can help guide them along the way by passing privacy and data security standards. This is where working groups like the Judiciary Committee's Tech Task Force come into play.

Last week, I was speaking to a group of private sector tech gurus, and I told them that the only way we will be able to move forward is if the government does more listening and they do more talking and work with us on setting these basic standards.

I stand by what I said. It is not—and should not be—Congress's job to decide in retrospect what sort of culture companies like Facebook and Twitter meant to create. It is imperative that these companies understand the American public views them as a public square, an online public square, and it is up to them to be certain that there is an objective cop on the beat.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, thank you for the recognition.

The Constitution demands that ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.''

Like any other matter, it is Congress's power and responsibility to determine how much taxpayer money is spent on the President's request for a border wall.

Like most Presidents, he didn't get every dollar he wanted. Now the President, through a sham national emergency declaration, is taking $3.6 billion of funds we appropriated for military construction projects to pay for his wall. The real question is not whether the President is usurping our article I power to appropriate; he is, no doubt about it. The real question is, Will we do something about it?

Today I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of our resolution terminating the President's national emergency declaration.

Madam President, starting off the debate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following materials: a joint declaration from former national security officials outlining why the President's border emergency does not qualify under the National Emergencies Act and a September 18, 2019, Washington Post article outlining the dire outcomes warned by the Pentagon if the military construction projects don't go forward.

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

JOINT DECLARATION OF FORMER UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

We, the undersigned, declare as follows:

1. We are former officials in the U.S. government who have worked on national security and homeland security issues from the White House as well as agencies across the Executive Branch. We have served in senior leadership roles in administrations of both major political parties, and collectively we have devoted a great many decades to protecting the security interests of the United States. We have held the highest security clearances, and we have participated in the highest levels of policy deliberations on a broad range of issues. These include: immigration, border security, counterterrorism, military operations, and our nation's relationship with other countries, including those south of our border.

Madeleine K. Albright, Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001. Jeremy B. Bash, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Defense from 2011 to 2013; John B. Bellinger III, Legal Adviser to the U.S. Department of State from 2005 to 2009; Daniel Benjamin, Ambassador-at-Large for Counterterrorism at the U.S. Department of State from 2009 to 2012; Antony Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State from 2015 to 2017; John O. Brennan, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2013 to 2017; R. Nicholas Burns, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from 2005 to 2008; William J. Burns, Deputy Secretary of State from 2011 to 2014; Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs from 2009 to 2013; James Clapper, U.S. Director of National Intelligence from 2010 to 2017; David S. Cohen, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence from 2011 to 2015; Eliot A. Cohen, Counselor of the U.S. Department of State from 2007 to 2009; Ryan Crocker, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012; Thomas Donilon, National Security Advisor to the President from 2010 to 2013; Jen Easterly, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism from 2013 to 2016; Nancy Ely-Raphel, Senior Adviser to the Secretary of State and Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons from 2001 to 2003; Daniel P. Erikson, Special Advisor for Western Hemisphere Affairs to the Vice President from 2015 to 2017; John D. Feeley, U.S. Ambassador to Panama from 2015 to 2018; Daniel F. Feldman, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the U.S. Department of State from 2014 to 2015; Jonathan Finer, Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State from 2015 to 2017.

Jendayi Frazer, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs from 2005 to 2009; Suzy George, Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff of the National Security Council from 2014 to 2017; Phil Gordon, Special Assistant to the President and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf from 2013 to 2015; Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense from 2013 to 2015; Avril D. Haines, Deputy National Security Advisor to the President from 2015 to 2017; Luke Hartig, Senior Director for Counterterrorism at the National Security Council from 2014 to 2016; Heather A. Higginbottom, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources from 2013 to 2017; Roberta Jacobson, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico from 2016 to 2018; Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection from 2014 to 2017; John F. Kerry, Secretary of State from 2013 to 2017; Prem Kumar, Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the National Security Council from 2013 to 2015; John E. McLaughlin, Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2000 to 2004; Lisa O. Monaco, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism from 2013 to 2017; Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2013; James D. Nealon, Assistant Secretary for International Engagement at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from 2017 to 2018; James C. O'Brien, Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs from 2015 to 2017; Matthew G. Olsen, Director of the National Counterterrorism Center from 2011 to 2014; Leon E. Panetta, Secretary of Defense from 2011 to 2013; Anne W. Patterson, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs from 2013 to 2017; Thomas R. Pickering, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from 1997 to 2000. He served as U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1989 to 1992; Amy Pope, Deputy Homeland Security Advisor and Deputy Assistant to the President from 2015 to 2017.

Samantha J. Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2013 to 2017; Jeffrey Prescott, Deputy National Security Advisor to the Vice President from 2013 to 2015; Nicholas Rasmussen, Director of the National Counterterrorism Center from 2014 to 2017; Alan Charles Raul, Vice Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board from 2006 to 2008; Dan Restrepo, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council from 2009 to 2012; Susan E. Rice, National Security Advisor to the President from 2013 to 2017; Anne C. Richard, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration from 2012 to 2017; Eric P. Schwartz, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration from 2009 to 2011; Andrew J. Shapiro, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs from 2009 to 2013; Wendy R. Sherman, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from 2011 to 2015; Vikram Singh, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan from 2010 to 2011; Dana Shell Smith, U.S. Ambassador to Qatar from 2014 to 2017; Jeffrey H. Smith, General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1995 to 1996; Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor to the Vice President from

2013 to 2014; Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State from 1994 to 2001; Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs from 2013 to 2017; Arturo A. Valenzuela, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs from 2009 to 2011.

2. On February 15, 2019, the President declared a ''national emergency'' for the purpose of diverting appropriated funds from previously designated uses to build a wall along the southern border. We are aware of no emergency that remotely justifies such a step. The President's actions are at odds with the overwhelming evidence in the public record, including the administration's own data and estimates. We have lived and worked through national emergencies, and we support the President's power to mobilize the Executive Branch to respond quickly in genuine national emergencies. But under no plausible assessment of the evidence is there a national emergency today that entitles the President to tap into funds appropriated for other purposes to build a wall at the southern border. To our knowledge, the President's assertion of a national emergency here is unprecedented, in that he seeks to address a situation: (1) that has been enduring, rather than one that has arisen suddenly; (2) that in fact has improved over time rather than deteriorated; (3) by reprogramming billions of dollars in funds in the face of clear congressional intent to the contrary; and (4) with assertions that are rebutted not just by the public record, but by his agencies' own official data, documents, and statements.

3. Illegal border crossings are near forty-year lows. At the outset, there is no evidence of a sudden or emergency increase in the number of people seeking to cross the southern border. According to the administration's own data, the numbers of apprehensions and undetected illegal border crossings at the southern border are near forty-year lows. Although there was a modest increase in apprehensions in 2018, that figure is in keeping with the number of apprehensions only two years earlier, and the overall trend indicates a dramatic decline over the last fifteen years in particular. The administration also estimates that ''undetected unlawful entries'' at the southern border ''fell from approximately 851,000 to nearly 62,000'' between fiscal years 2006 to 2016, the most recent years for which data are available. The United States currently hosts what is estimated to be the smallest number of undocumented immigrants since 2004. And in fact, in recent years, the majority of currently undocumented immigrants entered the United States legally, but overstayed their visas, a problem that will not be addressed by the declaration of an emergency along the southern border.

4. There is no documented terrorist or national security emergency at the southern border. There is no reason to believe that there is a terrorist or national security emergency at the southern border that could justify the President's proclamation.

a. This administration's own most recent Country Report on Terrorism, released only five months ago, found that ''there was no credible evidence indicating that international terrorist groups have established bases in Mexico, worked with Mexican drug cartels, or sent operatives via Mexico into the United States.'' Since 1975, there has been only one reported incident in which immigrants who had crossed the southern border illegally attempted to commit a terrorist act. That incident occurred more than twelve years ago, and involved three brothers from Macedonia who had been brought into the United States as children more than twenty years earlier.

b. Although the White House has claimed, as an argument favoring a wall at the southern border, that almost 4,000 known or suspected terrorists were intercepted at the southern border in a single year, this assertion has since been widely and consistently repudiated, including by this administration's own Department of Homeland Security. The overwhelming majority of individuals on terrorism watchlists who were intercepted by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol were attempting to travel to the United States by air; of the individuals on the terrorist watchlist who were encountered while entering the United States during fiscal year 2017, only 13 percent traveled by land. And for those who have attempted to enter by land, only a small fraction do so at the southern border. Between October 2017 and March 2018, forty-one foreign immigrants on the terrorist watchlist were intercepted at the northern border. Only six such immigrants were intercepted at the southern border.

5. There is no emergency related to violent crime at the southern border. Nor can the administration justify its actions on the grounds that the incidence of violent crime on the southern border constitutes a national emergency. Factual evidence consistently shows that unauthorized immigrants have no special proclivity to engage in criminal or violent behavior. According to a Cato Institute analysis of criminological data, undocumented immigrants are 44 percent less likely to be incarcerated nationwide than are native-born citizens. And in Texas, undocumented immigrants were found to have a first-time conviction rate 32 percent below that of native-born Americans; the conviction rates of unauthorized immigrants for violent crimes such as homicide and sex offenses were also below those of native-born Americans. Meanwhile, overall rates of violent crime in the United States have declined significantly over the past 25 years, falling 49 percent from 1993 to 2017. And violent crime rates in the country's 30 largest cities have decreased on average by 2.7 percent in 2018 alone, further undermining any suggestion that recent crime trends currently warrant the declaration of a national emergency.

6. There is no human or drug trafficking emergency that can be addressed by a wall at the southern border. The administration has claimed that the presence of human and drug trafficking at the border justifies its emergency declaration. But there is no evidence of any such sudden crisis at the southern border that necessitates a reprogramming of appropriations to build a border wall.

a. The overwhelming majority of opioids that enter the United States across a land border are carried through legal ports of entry in personal or commercial vehicles, not smuggled through unauthorized border crossings. A border wall would not stop these drugs from entering the United States. Nor would a wall stop drugs from entering via other routes, including smuggling tunnels, which circumvent such physical barriers as fences and walls, and international mail (which is how high-purity fentanyl, for example, is usually shipped from China directly to the United States).

b. Likewise, illegal crossings at the southern border are not the principal source of human trafficking victims. About two-thirds of human trafficking victims served by nonprofit organizations that receive funding from the relevant Department of Justice office are U.S. citizens, and even among noncitizens, most trafficking victims usually arrive in the country on valid visas. None of these instances of trafficking could be addressed by a border wall. And the three states with the highest per capita trafficking reporting rates are not even located along the southern border.

7. This proclamation will only exacerbate the humanitarian concerns that do exist at the southern border. There are real humanitarian concerns at the border, but they largely result from the current administration's own deliberate policies towards migrants. For example, the administration has used a ''metering'' policy to turn away families fleeing extreme violence and persecution in their home countries, forcing them to wait indefinitely at the border to present their asylum cases, and has adopted a number of other punitive steps to restrict those seeking asylum at the southern border. These actions have forced asylum-seekers to live on the streets or in makeshift shelters and tent cities with abysmal living conditions, and limited access to basic sanitation has caused outbreaks of disease and death. This state of affairs is a consequence of choices this administration has made, and erecting a wall will do nothing to ease the suffering of these people.

8. Redirecting funds for the claimed ''national emergency'' will undermine U.S. national security and foreign policy interests. In the face of a nonexistent threat, redirecting funds for the construction of a wall along the southern border will undermine national security by needlessly pulling resources from Department of Defense programs that are responsible for keeping our troops and our country safe and running effectively.

a. Repurposing funds from the defense construction budget will drain money from critical defense infrastructure projects, possibly including improvement of military hospitals, construction of roads, and renovation of on-base housing. And the proclamation will likely continue to divert those armed forces already deployed at the southern border from their usual training activities or missions, affecting troop readiness.

b. In addition, the administration's unilateral, provocative actions are heightening tensions with our neighbors to the south, at a moment when we need their help to address a range of Western Hemisphere concerns. These actions are placing friendly governments to the south under impossible pressures and driving partners away. They have especially strained our diplomatic relationship with Mexico, a relationship that is vital to regional efforts ranging from critical intelligence and law enforcement partnerships to cooperative efforts to address the growing tensions with Venezuela. Additionally, the proclamation could well lead to the degradation of the natural environment in a manner that could only contribute to long-term socioeconomic and security challenges.

c. Finally, by declaring a national emergency for domestic political reasons with no compelling reason or justification from his senior intelligence and law enforcement officials, the President has further eroded his credibility with foreign leaders, both friend and foe. Should a genuine foreign crisis erupt, this lack of credibility will materially weaken this administration's ability to marshal allies to support the United States, and will embolden adversaries to oppose us.

9. The situation at the border does not require the use of the armed forces, and a wall is unnecessary to support the use of the armed forces. We understand that the administration is also claiming that the situation at the southern border ''requires use of the armed forces,'' and that a wall is ''necessary to support such use'' of the armed forces. These claims are implausible.

a. Historically, our country has deployed National Guard troops at the border solely to assist the Border Patrol when there was an extremely high number of apprehensions, together with a particularly low number of Border Patrol agents. But currently, even

with retention and recruitment challenges, the Border Patrol is at historically high staffing and funding levels, and apprehensions—measured in both absolute and per-agent terms—are near historic lows.

b. Furthermore, the composition of southern border crossings has shifted such that families and unaccompanied minors now account for the majority of immigrants seeking entry at the southern border; these individuals do not present a threat that would need to be countered with military force.

c. Just last month, when asked what the military is doing at the border that couldn't be done by the Department of Homeland Security if it had the funding for it, a top-level defense official responded, ''[n]one of the capabilities that we are providing [at the southern border] are combat capabilities. It's not a war zone along the border.'' Finally, it is implausible that hundreds of miles of wall across the southern border are somehow necessary to support the use of armed forces. We are aware of no military- or security-related rationale that could remotely justify such an endeavor.

10. There is no basis for circumventing the appropriations process with a declaration of a national emergency at the southern border. We do not deny that our nation faces real immigration and national security challenges. But as the foregoing demonstrates, these challenges demand a thoughtful, evidence-based strategy, not a manufactured crisis that rests on falsehoods and fearmongering. In a briefing before the Senate Intelligence Committee on January 29, 2019, less than one month before the Presidential Proclamation, the Directors of the CIA, DNI, FBI, and NSA testified about numerous serious current threats to U.S. national security, but none of the officials identified a security crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border. In a briefing before the House Armed Services Committee the next day, Pentagon officials acknowledged that the 2018 National Defense Strategy does not identify the southern border as a security threat. Leading legislators with access to classified information and the President's own statements have strongly suggested, if not confirmed, that there is no evidence supporting the administration's claims of an emergency. And it is reported that the President made the decision to circumvent the appropriations process and reprogram money without the Acting Secretary of Defense having even started to consider where the funds might come from, suggesting an absence of consultation and internal deliberations that in our experience are necessary and expected before taking a decision of this magnitude.

11. For all of the foregoing reasons, in our professional opinion, there is no factual basis for the declaration of a national emergency for the purpose of circumventing the appropriations process and reprogramming billions of dollars in funding to construct a wall at the southern border, as directed by the Presidential Proclamation of February 15, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeleine K. Albright, Jeremy B. Bash, John B. Bellinger III, Daniel Benjamin, Antony Blinken, John O. Brennan, R. Nicholas Burns, William J. Burns, Johnnie Carson, James Clapper, David S. Cohen, Eliot A. Cohen, Ryan Crocker, Thomas Donilon, Jen Easterly, Nancy Ely-Raphel, Daniel P. Erikson, John D. Feeley, Daniel F. Feldman, Jonathan Finer.

Jendayi Frazer, Suzy George, Phil Gordon, Chuck Hagel, Avril D. Haines, Luke Hartig, Heather A. Higginbottom, Roberta Jacobson, Gil Kerlikowske, John F. Kerry, Prem Kumar, John E. McLaughlin, Lisa O. Monaco, Janet Napolitano, James D. Nealon, James C. O'Brien, Matthew G. Olsen.

Leon E. Panetta, Anne W. Patterson, Thomas R. Pickering, Amy Pope, Samantha J. Power, Jeffrey Prescott, Nicholas Rasmussen, Alan Charles Raul, Dan Restrepo, Susan E. Rice, Anne C. Richard, Eric P. Schwartz, Andrew J. Shapiro, Wendy R. Sherman, Vikram Singh, Dana Shell Smith, Jeffrey H. Smith, Jake Sullivan, Strobe Talbott, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Arturo A. Valenzuela.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 18, 2019]

PENTAGON HAS WARNED OF DIRE OUTCOMES IF MILITARY PROJECTS CANCELED FOR WALL DON'T HAPPEN

(By Aaron Gregg and Erica Werner)

The Pentagon warned of dire outcomes unless Congress paid for urgently needed military construction projects nationwide—the same projects that have now been canceled to fund President Trump's border wall.

The warnings are contained in Defense Department budget requests sent to lawmakers in recent years. They include potentially hazardous living conditions for troops and their families, as well as unsafe schools that would impede learning. In numerous cases, the Defense Department warned that lives would be put at risk if buildings don't meet the military's standards for fire safety or management of explosives.

Even before $3.6 billion in construction funding was pulled to support a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, military buildings across the country often had been neglected in favor of other priorities. The defense spending limits that took effect after a 2013 budget deal designed to end a government shutdown starved the military's construction budget for years, officials and analysts say, meaning many construction projects are long overdue.

The details in the budget documents—annual requests the Pentagon sends to Capitol Hill that are mostly public—underscore the risky trade-offs Trump made in declaring a national emergency that allowed him to divert funding for the wall.

A Pentagon spokesman did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

In requests to Congress over the past three years, military officials describe dilapidated World War II-era warehouses with ''leaking asbestos panel roof systems,'' a drone pilot training facility with sinkholes and a bat infestation, explosives being stored in buildings that didn't meet safety standards and a mold-infested middle school. In numerous instances, Defense Department officials wrote that the infrastructure problems were hurting the military's readiness and impeding the department's national security mission.

Democrats and some Republicans strongly oppose the emergency declaration. The Senate is expected to vote for a second time in the coming weeks to overturn it, but Congress does not appear to have enough votes to overcome Trump's veto of such a disapproval resolution.

A list of the military construction projects being defunded to pay for the wall was released in early September. But it did not contain details of the Pentagon's explanations to Congress about why the projects were needed—and what would happen if they were not completed. The Washington Post's review of the budget documents is the first attempt to detail those Pentagon warnings.

The Post uncovered budget documents pertaining to 29 of the 43 military construction projects in the mainland United States—not including those in territories such as Puerto Rico and Guam—that are being canceled to pay for the wall. The review excluded two projects that had been canceled before the emergency authorization. Many of these documents are publicly available but have not been previously reported.

The Pentagon insists that the projects are merely being delayed, not canceled, and Republicans say they will try to ''backfill'' the money in question, but Democrats oppose that strategy. In recent days, the fight over the border wall money has caused angry divisions among lawmakers trying to write annual spending bills to keep the government running, raising the specter of another shutdown this year. Last winter's record-long 35-day partial government shutdown ended only after Trump declared a national emergency because Congress wouldn't give him all the money he wanted for his wall. (During his campaign, Trump repeatedly vowed that Mexico would pay for the construction.)

Congressional Democrats have rallied around the issue, decrying unsafe conditions in their home districts and nationwide.

''We see across the country—communities, military bases and people in the military—saying, 'Taking away this money hurts us,' '' Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (N.Y.) said on the Senate floor this week. ''All the Democrats are asking for is to protect the troops from having their resources robbed for a border wall—resources that Congress said should go to the military.''

Sen. Tim Kaine (D–Va.) said ''it shocks me that, as commander in chief, [Trump] now insists that it's got to be our troops, our military families and our nation's security that have to be sacrificed for his foolishness,'' noting that $77 million had been ''raided'' from projects in his state.

OMINOUS WARNINGS

This month, the Pentagon announced that 127 military construction projects stood to lose funding to pay for Trump's wall. Although Pentagon officials have expressed confidence that the projects ultimately will go forward, there is no guarantee that they will.

In many cases, the Pentagon has been ominous in describing the potential outcomes should the projects not happen.

The Air Force has been seeking a new training facility for drone pilots at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico because the current training facility had sinkholes and a bat infestation.

It also prevents pilot trainees from operating in a classified environment, the Air Force wrote in its publicly accessible budget request. This means trainees could not use a safety system designed to alert drone pilots to the location of ground-based personnel, as well as a separate system designed to prevent aircraft from crashing into one another.

The Air Force has been seeking a new control center at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, designed to replace a pair of ''dilapidated WWII-era warehouses'' used for air traffic control and mission control operations even though they have been labeled ''structurally deficient'' and don't meet regulations. The Air Force noted in its budget request that air traffic control equipment is at risk of being destroyed by ''roof leaks from failing asbestos panel roof systems.''

If the $28 million project is not finished, the Air Force warned in 2017, service members will continue to operate in ''aging dilapidated buildings that were never intended for the purpose they are now serving.''

The Air National Guard has been seeking to replace the aircraft parking ramp at a New Orleans facility, which abuts a public roadway. This means munitions-loaded aircraft—which are kept on alert so they can be scrambled quickly in the event of a terrorist attack—expose the public to the ''unacceptable risk'' of being affected by an explosive accident, the Air Force wrote in 2018. An Air Force analysis calculated that members of

the public are inside the jets' ''explosive arc'' for about 3,800 hours per year as they pass by the base.

In addition, the shelters that hold the aircraft when they aren't parked on the runway are on concrete slabs that are sinking, causing pipes and electrical connections to pull loose. The shelters also did not have fire protections, the Defense Department wrote in 2018.

The Defense Department also warned that overly decentralized weapons maintenance buildings in Anniston, Ala., would continue to increase the risk of accidents because of the ''unnecessary movement of artillery pieces.''

The Air Force has been seeking $41 million to repair a central heat power plant boiler at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. The Air Force warned in its budget justification to Congress that the boiler, installed in 1951, is expected to fail within the next several years at a base where winter temperatures can plunge as low as 65 degrees below zero. That outcome ''would be devastating to facilities and the missions housed in those facilities,'' the Air Force said. The base could be forced to evacuate, and the facilities would then freeze and require ''many millions of dollars'' to make them usable again.

The system in question is one of two 1950s-era boilers that require urgent replacement at Eielson. The failure of the other one is described as ''imminent'' and also could force an evacuation, followed by a deep freeze that would cost millions of dollars to recover from, according to the Air Force's description from 2017.

'SUBSTANDARD,' 'UNSAFE'

A different issue looms at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where medical and dental care is provided in ''substandard, inefficient, decentralized and uncontrolled facilities,'' according to the military, which has sought congressional approval to build a new ambulatory care center on the base. Not doing so ''will result in compromised readiness, uncoordinated care delivery, and inappropriate use of medical resources,'' the Pentagon said.

At Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in South Carolina, the military sought funding to build a satellite fire station, without which ''personnel . . . will continue to work from a significantly undersized and unsafe facility.''

In another example, the military is seeking to repair a middle school at Fort Campbell in Kentucky, a project that has been championed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R–Ky.) and that he has vowed to protect even after its appearance on the list of installations at risk of being canceled to pay for Trump's wall.

The Pentagon described conditions at the middle school as ''substandard'' and told lawmakers in requesting $62.6 million to repair it that ''the continued use of deficient, inadequate, and undersized facilities that do not accommodate the current student population will continue to impair the overall education program for students.''

At Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, meanwhile, construction of a much-needed new child-care center has been put on hold in favor of Trump's wall. The Pentagon notes that the facility ''has suffered from sewage backups, heating, ventilation and air conditioning failures and mold and pest management issues.'' The upgraded facility is supposed to accommodate 165 children and staff members. As of February 2018, 115 children were on a waiting list to get in.

Joint Base Andrews is also home to the hangar that holds Air Force One. That hangar is being relocated at a cost of $154 million to accommodate a larger Boeing model now being used for Trump. But the new hangar displaces a specialized area designed for unloading hazardous cargo and a separate disposal range where Air Force officials could be trained to defuse bombs. The Air Force requested $37 million for a new hazardous-cargo pad and explosive-ordnance center, but that project has been included on the list of those being canceled to pay for the barrier along the border. The Air Force One hangar project was left untouched.

As a result, a temporary facility will be provided. But not replacing the hazardous-cargo pad would cause ''enduring systemic weaknesses'' at the base, while the lack of an explosive-ordinance range would ''adversely impact'' training, which would have to happen somewhere off the base at greater cost, the military said.

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, with that, I yield to Senator MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I join my Democratic colleagues on the floor to once again speak out against this President and his administration's outrageous abuses of Executive power.

While, unfortunately, there is a myriad of Presidential abuses to which I could be referring, today, this evening, I am here to discuss two of his most recent and most egregious actions that have not only run afoul of Congress's authority and our constitutional system of checks and balances but also compromise our national security.

It began with the President making a phony national emergency declaration to bypass Congress and steal money to build his border wall under the auspices of a ''crisis''—one of the President's own making—in pursuit of advancing the most anti-immigrant agenda this country has seen in generations, all manufactured to secure Federal funds to build his often-touted vanity wall on our southern border. This is a wall the American people were not supposed to pay for and that we, time and again, have indicated we do not want.

Now, one would think this extreme overreach of Executive authority alone would get our colleagues on the other side of the aisle riled up enough to defend the Constitution's system of checks and balances, but in declaring his national emergency, President Trump took his overreach one step further, ransacking critical Federal funds—taxpayer dollars—that were appropriated by Congress to fund important military construction projects and national security priorities across the country. To do what with? To put money toward building his border wall.

To be clear, instead of Federal funds going toward military infrastructure priorities such as a new pier and maintenance facility at Naval Base Kitsap in my home State of Washington that would help guide and protect our Navy's vital nuclear submarines, those funds are now going to pay for Trump's border wall.

Instead of our military using Federal funds already authorized by Congress to increase access to childcare for our servicemembers and their families, those funds are now going into paying for Trump's wall.

While this behavior from our President is predictable, it is no less wrong, underhanded, and unacceptable, and I know I am not the only one who thinks that way.

Since the President's rash move to reprogram billions of dollars from our military construction budget toward his border wall, I have heard repeatedly from constituents who are upset by this President's brazen acts of recklessness and are wondering how the President of the United States can just step over Congress to do whatever he wants with our Federal budget, especially when it is on the backs of our troops and their families.

I refuse to stand by and do nothing while this President hurts my State and so many others. Why? Because he cares more about his vanity project than our troops, the military community, or the American people.

That is why, in the coming days, I plan to introduce new legislation that will not only recoup the military construction funds that were shamefully raided for Trump's border wall but put in place new safeguards to make sure no President today or in the future can so effortlessly bypass the will of Congress to loot the Federal budget.

We need to put a check on this President, plain and simple. Right now, we can do so by standing up for Congress and our constitutional authority to set the Federal budget and pay our Nation's bills.

So I urge my colleagues to join Democrats in voting to rescind President Trump's bogus national emergency declaration, taking that first step to roll back the President's plunder and hold him accountable because as a coequal branch of our Federal Government, it is not just our job, it is our sworn duty and one this body and our Republican colleagues cannot ignore.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I agree with my distinguished colleagues from Washington State and New Mexico for what they have said.

Sometimes casting a vote on the Senate floor is just a matter of course. It is something we do routinely, often without considering the impact of that vote on the Senate as an institution, let alone our constitutional Republic as we know it, but this week's vote on President Trump's national emergency declaration is different. It is a pivotal moment in this body's history. It is a stress test of the very notion of separation of powers. The Constitution speaks of Congress as being a coequal branch of government. Well, this is going to be viewed as a moment when Congress either asserted itself as a coequal branch of government or surrendered as a subordinate to the will of a President who now claims his powers are absolute.

This is a President who has said out loud that the Constitution gives him the right to do ''whatever I want as

President.'' It makes one wonder if the President has ever actually read the Constitution of the United States. This President is attempting to ignore the explicit will of Congress by simply declaring a national emergency to fund his ''big, beautiful'' wall. That is after, time and time and time again, he gave us his word that Mexico would pay for the wall.

For 3 years, he failed to convince Congress that the wall was a good idea. Even when his own party controlled both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, his tweets and tantrums could not convince enough Members that his cynical campaign promise was worthy of tens of billions of dollars of taxpayers' money. He could not convince anybody, Republican or Democrat, that he was telling the truth when he said Mexico would pay for it.

So when Congress did not comply, he directed his yes-people to tell them he could fund his pet project, nonetheless, by declaring a national emergency out of thin air and stealing the money from our troops and their families.

He even admitted his national emergency declaration was a matter of political expediency rather than justified by facts. I remember him standing in the Rose Garden. He said he did not ''need'' to invoke a national emergency; he could ''build the wall over a longer period of time,'' but he just wanted to do it ''faster.'' Once again, the whims and tweets of the President were used to trample our Constitution.

President Trump's declaration of a national emergency to build his wall should offend all 100 Senators—Republicans and Democrats alike—in this body. First and foremost, he is using it to steal $3.6 billion from critical military construction projects that would benefit our men and women in uniform and their families. This impacts 127 military construction projects, including a child development center, an elementary school, a fire and rescue station—all falling victim to his fixation on the wall. He is telling the families of our military who are living in substandard housing—some of it with mold and other damaging health conditions—that, no, you are not going to get that money you need to fix that up. I am going to put it toward my wall.

We already ask our military families to sacrifice so much to keep our country safe. Now they have to sacrifice, yet again, and to what end? To keep this President's ego safe.

Furthermore, I would note that his national emergency declaration is a transparent end-run around Congress's constitutional power of the purse. Article I, section 9 of the Constitution, which I doubt the President has ever bothered to read, states that Congress—and Congress alone—decides how to spend Americans' hard-earned tax dollars. That has been the case from the time of the founding of this country until today. It is one of the most critical checks and balances in our constitutional system. In our democracy, Presidents must respect—and normally do—the appropriations decisions of Congress but, for the first time, not this President.

I was here when Congress enacted the National Emergencies Act of 1976. When we passed it then, we assumed that any President would have enough respect for the office to invoke the extraordinary powers granted under it judiciously and only in times when there was, in fact, an emergency to be addressed.

But not this President. Where the world sees women and children seeking refuge at our southern border, he sees criminals and terrorists invading our country. Where the world sees declining border crossings—crossings have dropped steeply since June—he sees an escalating border crisis that only his wall can fix. Facts may not matter to a President willing to invent a hurricane path with a sharpie marker, but they should matter to us. We must not allow this President to invoke such sweeping powers—powers we granted to him for real emergencies—simply to address some emergency he has concocted in his head.

So this week I hope all Senators, no matter what their political background is, will think carefully about their vote on the President's national emergency declaration. I hope each of us thinks long and hard about what it would mean for our role as a coequal branch, for the separation of powers, for the Constitution, which has protected our country all these years, and what would it mean if we fail to reject this naked power grab by President Trump.

In March, 12 of my Republican friends joined Democrats in rejecting the President's emergency declaration, forcing him to override our vote with a veto. I hope every one of us tonight will go home and read the Constitution and realize what we must do. I hope more Republicans will join Democrats this time in voting aye on the joint resolution of disapproval. We must send this President a veto-proof message that Congress will rise above party to protect what is most precious in our American democracy; the Senate will stand for the Constitution above all else; that the Senate will be the conscience of the Nation, as we should be.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I am pleased to join my colleagues and very much appreciate Senator UDALL's leadership on the joint resolution we are speaking to today. This is the resolution that would end the President's unconstitutional emergency declaration, which is diverting money from critical military construction projects to fund a costly and ineffective border wall.

Congress has made it abundantly clear that we did not provide funding for the President's border wall and that we don't approve of raiding military resources to fund his campaign promise—which, by the way, the President vowed Mexico would pay for.

It is important to note that Congress works on a bipartisan basis to provide funding to secure the southern border. According to the Constitution, it is Congress and not the President who holds the power of the purse. Just 6 months ago, in a strong bipartisan vote, a majority of this body—59 Senators—successfully passed the resolution disapproving of the President's emergency declaration. Unfortunately, President Trump chose to veto that legislation, which is why we have brought it to the floor again for a vote.

It is imperative that this legislative body—this Senate—defend its authority as derived from the Constitution and protect funding that is vital to our troops and to our national security.

I think it is difficult to overstate the critical role military construction projects play in maintaining military readiness and supporting our national defense. Yet this administration is treating funding set aside for our national security like a slush fund.

Take military construction, for instance. At the Portsmouth Naval shipyard in New Hampshire and Maine—it is on the border between New Hampshire and Maine—any disruptions for funding in construction projects can result in costly delays to our military's carefully crafted plans to upgrade aging infrastructure. Delays in projects that support the shipyard's mission threaten to exacerbate the Navy's already high demand for submarine maintenance and the projected submarine shortfall in the coming years.

In addition, New Hampshire's National Guard readiness centers are in desperate need of modernization, and they can't afford further delays to readiness center improvements. All those projects are funded through the military construction program.

While New Hampshire's and Maine's shipyard and National Guard were spared from President Trump's latest money grab, the same can't be said for 127 other important military construction projects across this country.

The 552 middle school children at Fort Campbell in the majority leader's home State of Kentucky will have to wait for a new school as President Trump diverts construction funding to the border.

Critical projects in Virginia that would improve a cyber operations facility and replace hazardous materials in warehouses are another casualty of President Trump's political games.

The Child Development Center in Maryland, the missile field in Alaska, the weapon maintenance shop in Alabama—the list of projects that are affected by the President's unconstitutional mandate just goes on and on. It includes hundreds of millions of dollars for critical infrastructure to support the Defense Department's European Deterrence Initiative. What message does that send to our European allies

on our efforts to deter Russian aggression?

The impact of the President's actions and Congress's own complacency is painfully real to the men and women who serve our Nation. These are the same men and women who are being deprived of the resources they need to complete their mission.

Perhaps not surprising, there are now reports indicating that the Trump administration is again planning to take military construction funds appropriated by Congress to build the border wall. According to the Washington Post, you can see this pretty clearly. The administration plans to pitch its appropriations request to Congress as replenishment money to the Department of Defense for the money they took this year to fund the border wall.

A Trump administration official said:

> The plan is to sell it as replenishment money. . . . Then once they got it from Congress, they would take it again.

This isn't just a one-time deal. We are talking about the administration setting us up to do this again and again and again. This type of deception from the administration makes funding the government extremely difficult for Congress because we can't trust—we don't know if the President is negotiating in good faith.

The Members of the legislative branch are endowed by the Constitution with the power to fund the government. We must be sure that the resources we provide in spending legislation are being used as they were intended by the Congress. This constitutional duty is particularly salient when the President has shown such a flagrant disregard for congressional intent and the constitutional separation of powers. The authority of the Congress is very clear: The power of the purse is held by the legislative branch. Those powers were enumerated for the very reason that we are here today—to shield against an overreaching Executive.

This isn't about Democrat versus Republican; this is about whether Congress votes to uphold its powers and responsibilities—powers and responsibilities that are enshrined in the Constitution. We must take action now in defense of both our Constitution and our national security.

I would urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect our constitutional authority as Members of Congress, to defend our national security, and to support the resolution to terminate President Trump's emergency declaration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I very much appreciate being joined on the floor by my colleagues at this critical time in history. Senator SHAHEEN just spoke. We also had Senator MURRAY and Senator LEAHY down here.

This issue will come to a head tomorrow. We are really at a crossroads. This body can continue to allow the President to subvert our constitutional authority to appropriate, or we can take back our power of the purse and exercise it as the Founders intended. The issue before us is not partisan; it is constitutional. If we don't put the Constitution above party, above politics, we might as well pack up our bags and go home. The voters did not send us here to shirk our responsibilities. History will not be kind to us if we allow the Executive to run roughshod over our constitutional authority.

For the second time, we have introduced a bipartisan resolution to terminate the President's national emergency declaration along our southern border. I thank Senators COLLINS and SHAHEEN for once again joining this resolution and affirming their commitment to the Constitution.

Our first vote on this resolution in March passed 59 to 41. We had strong bipartisan support because the President's emergency declaration is clearly an end run around Congress. We have the power to bring this resolution back every 6 months. I hope we can add to our majority this time because what were once fears about a so-called emergency in March have become a stark reality in September.

While I firmly oppose the President's approach on immigration, this vote is not about whether you oppose or support that approach. In March, a Republican Senator wrote in conviction about the President's emergency declaration:

> It is my responsibility to be a steward of the article I branch, to preserve the separation of powers and to curb the kind of executive overreach that Congress has allowed to fester for the better part of the past century. I stood by that principle during the Obama administration, and I stand by it now.

We all have another opportunity to stand with the Constitution and to object to a President actively diverting billions in defense funding for a political purpose. Congress, not the President, was given the power of the purse to make sure taxpayer money was spent on projects with broad public support.

We have different views in Congress, but as a whole, we have responded to the American people, and we have not appropriated all the funds the President has sought for his wall. But instead of allowing Congress to decide on spending, which is what the Constitution envisions, the President caused the longest shutdown in American history to get his wall. That 35-day shutdown caused a lot of pain and anxiety for many Federal workers and contractors and their families in New Mexico and across the Nation. When the shutdown didn't work, the President issued his emergency declaration.

If we allow this President to issue an emergency declaration to get funding for his wall, we will be setting a dangerous precedent—a precedent that could be used by future Presidents on issues my Republican colleagues surely wouldn't like.

The President is now taking $3.6 billion from 127 military construction projects that we have approved and funded. We all know the rigor with which these projects have been vetted, scrutinized, and approved. According to the Pentagon, these projects are necessary for national security and military readiness, necessary to ensure the safety of our men and women in uniform and their children. In other words, they are not projects simply designed to fulfill a campaign slogan.

Two projects in New Mexico are on the chopping block, and both are critical. One is an $85 million drone pilot training center at Holloman Air Force Base to replace a facility that is falling apart, and the other is a $40 million secure information technology facility at White Sands Missile Range. Both of those are gone.

In Utah, the Air Force has sought a new control center at Hill Air Force Base to replace ''structurally deficient, dilapidated World War II-era warehouses'' for mission control.

In Louisiana, the Air National Guard sought to replace an aircraft parking ramp in a New Orleans facility that exposes the public to ''unacceptable risks'' of being impacted by an explosive accident.

In Indiana, Army servicemembers have worked in violation of safety standards for handling explosives and need additional space from munitions.

In Kentucky, the military seeks to repair substandard, deficient, inadequate, and undersized facilities at a majority school at Fort Campbell that impairs the overall education program for the children of servicemembers.

Back in March, we worried that this would happen, but now it is a reality. Our men and women in uniform and their children are paying for the wall. And if we do not stand up and stop it today, it will happen again and again. This is unacceptable, and I believe it is unlawful and unconstitutional. We here in the Senate have decided to fund these projects and others in 23 States instead of a border wall, and with good reason.

Some in Congress are calling for us to backfill 127 projects and reappropriate the funds for them. Backfilling does not solve the problem. It does not repair the constitutional violation. It only gives license to the President to continue raiding funds we have already appropriated for military construction projects. Unless we stop the emergency, the backfilled money will be subject to being raided again. If your house is robbed, it is foolish to buy new valuables without putting a new lock on the door.

Canceling these 127 projects is not just a one-off; we all know the President fully intends to keep it. It has already been reported that if the President doesn't get the $5 billion he has requested for his wall in 2020, the administration plans to take another $3.6 billion from the Pentagon's construction budget.

I will come back in a minute.

I yield to the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 415.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gen. John E. Hyten for appointment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility in accordance with title 10, U.S.C., sections 154 and 601: to be General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Gen. John E. Hyten for appointment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility in accordance with title 10, U.S.C., sections 154 and 601: to be General.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Richard C. Shelby, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, Richard Burr, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, John Boozman, John Thune, David Perdue, John Hoeven, Steve Daines.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, killings of environmental defenders are shockingly common in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The assassination of Berta Caceres in Honduras 3 years ago, orchestrated by top officials of a hydroelectric company and carried out by retired and Active-Duty soldiers who had received training from the United States, was emblematic of the widespread use of harassment, threats, and murder to silence those who courageously call for changes in policies and practices to protect the environment.

According to a report released today by Global Witness, the Philippines has the highest number of killings in Asia of people who oppose illegal logging, destructive mining, and corrupt agribusiness, with at least 30 cases documented in 2018. The total number is likely higher, as some investigations are ongoing. Many of the victims simply wanted a say in how their land and the country's natural resources are used. The perpetrators are almost never arrested or prosecuted.

On July 25, 2016, the Philippines' newly elected President Rodrigo Duterte delivered his first state of the nation address. He promised to safeguard the country's rural and indigenous communities, tackle corruption, and protect the environment. The results since then paint a very different and distressing picture. If President Duterte meant what he said, he has failed miserably. According to Global Witness, in the 3 years before Duterte took office at least 65 land and environmental defenders were murdered. That was appalling enough. But in the 3 years since he came to power, that number rose to 113. At least 31 of those murders were reportedly committed by the Philippine Armed Forces, whose soldiers and officers act with near total impunity.

The Philippines is a major recipient of U.S. military aid, and we are perceived by the families of the victims to be enablers of these crimes. In addition to increasing support for local environmental defenders, the Secretary of State and Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development should urge the Duterte government to ensure that the right to free, prior, and informed consent of those impacted by policies and practices that threaten their land and natural resources is respected. This is necessary not only to prevent the destruction of forests and farms, the pollution of watersheds, and the extinction of species, but to avoid confrontations and violence that result when extractive industries, supported by the Armed Forces and police, run roughshod over local communities.

The Secretaries of State and Defense should also ensure that those in the Philippine Armed Forces who receive our aid respect the rights of civilians and are accountable to the rule of law. When abuses occur they should be thoroughly investigated and the individuals responsible brought to justice. The Leahy Laws require that, and it is the responsibility of U.S. officials to ensure that they are enforced.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receives prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–62 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Thailand for defense articles and services estimated to cost $400 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Thailand.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment*: $300 million.

Other: $100 million.

Total: $400 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Eight (8) AH–6i Helicopters, Light Attack-Reconnaissance.

Fifty (50) AGM–114R Hellfire.

Two-hundred (200) Advance Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) Rockets.

Non-MDE: Also included are ten (10) M134 Mini Guns, ten (10) M260 Rocket Launchers, ten (10) M299 Longbow Hellfire Launcher, ten (10) AN/APN–209 Radar Altimeter, eight (8) AN/APR–39(V)(4), four (4) GAU–19/B .50 Cal Machine Gun, five-hundred (500) Hydra 70 Rockets, twenty (20) AN/AVS–6 Night Vision Goggles, eight (8) WESCAM MX–10Di Cameras, ten (10) AN/APX–123 IFF, ten (10) AN/ARC 201E–VHF–FM, ten (10) AN/ARC–231 w/ MX–4027, ten (10) LN–251 Inertial Navigation System/Global Positioning System (EGI), Aircrew Trainer (ACT), Pilot Desktop Trainer (PDT), Virtual Maintenance Trainer (VMT), contractor provided pilot and maintainer training, peculiar ground support equipment, spares, publications, integrated product support, technical assistance, quality assurance team, transportation, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TH–B–WHB).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 24, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Thailand—AH–6i Helicopters

The Government of Thailand has requested to buy eight (8) AH–6i light attack reconnaissance helicopters; fifty (50) AGM–114R Hellfire missiles; and two-hundred (200) Advance Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) Rockets. Also included are ten (10) M134 Mini Guns, ten (10) M260 Rocket Launchers; ten (10) M299 Longbow Hellfire Launcher; ten (10) AN/APN–209 Radar Altimeter; eight (8) AN/APR–39(V)(4) four (4) GAU–19/B .50 Cal Machine Gun; five-hundred (500) Hydra 70 Rockets; twenty (20) AN/AVS–6 Night Vision Goggles; eight (8) WESCAM MX–10Di Cameras; ten (10) AN/APX–123 IFF; ten (10) AN/ARC 201E–VHF–FM; ten (10) AN/ARC–231 w/ MX–4027; ten (10) LN–251 Inertial Navigation System/Global Positioning System (EGI); Aircrew Trainer (ACT); Pilot Desktop Trainer (PDT); Virtual Maintenance Trainer (VMT;, contractor provided pilot and maintainer training peculiar ground support equipment; spares; publications; integrated product support; technical assistance; quality assurance team; transportation; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $400 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO ally in INDO-PACOM. Thailand is a strategic partner committed to contributing to regional security.

The proposed sale of the AH–6i helicopter will improve the Royal Thai Army's (RTA) light attack capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats. These AH–6i helicopters will replace the RTA's aging fleet of seven AH–IF Cobra helicopters. As part of a broader military modernization effort, these AH–6i helicopters will provide light attack reconnaissance for close air support to special operations forces, Stryker infantry soldiers and border guard units. Thailand will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region,

The principal contractor for the AH–6i is Boeing Company, Mesa, Arizona. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any permanent additional U.S. Government or Contractor representatives to Thailand.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness s a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AH–6i Light Attack Helicopter is a commercial-off-the-shelf, light attack/reconnaissance helicopter to include AN/APX–123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Mode S Transponder, AN/ARC 201E–VHF/FM Radio, AN/ARC–231 w/MX–4027 Radio and LN 251 Embedded GPS/INS (EGI). The helicopter will be equipped with the WESCAM MX–lODi Sight/Targeting Sensor to ensure commonality and interoperability with the other aircraft platforms. The airframe itself does not contain sensitive technology.

2. Identification and security classification of sensitive technological information and/or restricted information contained in the equipment, major components, subsystems, software, technical data (Performance, Maintenance, R&M, etc.) documentation, training devices and services to be conveyed with the proposed sale. Also a brief explanation of why information is sensitive:

a. The AN/APX–123, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponder, is a space diversity transponder and is installed on various military platforms. When installed in conjunction with platform antennas and the RCU (or other appropriate control unit), the transponder provides identification, altitude and surveillance reporting in response to interrogations from airborne, ground-based and/or surface interrogators. The transponder provides operational capabilities for Mark XII Identification IFF capabilities of Modes 1, 2, 2/ A, C and 4&5 and Modes S (levels 1, 2, and 3 capable).

b. The LN–251 INS/GPS is a satellite based positioning system coupled to the aircraft inertial navigation system to provide aircraft position and navigation. The INS/GPS has an embedded SAASM and has gyro and accelerometers that have been evaluated as MTCR Category II controlled items, specifically items 9.A.6 and 9.A.8.

c. The WESCAM MX–10Di is a small Multi-Sensor, Multi-Spectral Imaging System with Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) and Embedded with Global Positioning System (GPS) Standard Positioning Service (SPS). WESCAM MX–10 is embedded with GPS SPS. SPS is a three- dimensional position and time determination capability provided to a user equipped with a minimum capability GPS SPS receiver in accordance with GPS national policy. The LN–200 is a small, lightweight fiber optic IMU comprised of gyro and accelerometers that have been evaluated as MTCR Category II controlled item, specifically item 9.A.6.

d. The M 134 Mini Gun has variable rates of fire-up to 4000 rounds per minute-and has seen increasingly widespread deployment over the last several years.

e. The AN/APR–39 (V)(4) Radar Signal Detecting Set is a system that provides warning of a radar directed air defense threat and allow appropriate countermeasures.

F. The 12.7mm (.50 caliber) GAU–19/B Externally Powered Gatling Gun, has variable rates of fire-up to 2000 rounds per minute-and has seen increasingly widespread deployment over the last several years.

g. The M299 Longbow Hellfire Launcher (LBHL) is a digital missile launcher capable of carry and launch of up to four of any combination of AGM–114 missiles. The launcher provides electronic functions required for the missile and launcher to communicate with the platform through MIL–STD–1760 and MIL–STD–1553 interfaces. The production quad-rail configuration was designed for use on the AH–640 Apache Longbow but is also commonly used on a wide variety of other rotary-wing platforms across all services. The M299 launcher has also been successfully re-configured into a dual rail launcher for weight savings and/or use on smaller platforms and also into a single-rail configuration for use on Un-manned Air System (UAS) platforms where the launcher electronics is integrated within the platform airframe.

h. The AGM–114 Hellfire II is a precision strike, Semi-Active Laser (SAL) guided missile and is the principal air-to-ground weapon for the Army AH–64 Apache. It provides the warfighter with an air-to-ground, point target precision strike capability to defeat advanced armor and an array of traditional and non-traditional targets. The Hellfire AGM–114R model is a selectable multipurpose warhead providing effects against a diverse target set.

1. The M260 Rocket Launcher with APKWS capability is a seven tube rocket launcher with a remote fuze setting function. Once the target is located, single or multiple pairs of the Hydra 70 APKWS folding-fin rockets can be launched toward the target when a predetermined time signal is sent to the electronic time fuze.

J. The APKWS is a low cost semi-active laser guidance kit developed by BAE Systems which is added to current unguided 70 mm rocket motors and warheads similar to and including the Hydra 70 rocket. It is a low collateral damage weapon that can effectively strike both soft and lightly armored targets. APKWS turns a standard unguided 2.75 inch (70 mm) rocket into a precision laser-guided rocket.

k. AN/AVS–6 (Helmet Mounted) Night Vision Goggles. The AN/AVS–6 NVG is a 3rd generation aviation NVG offering higher resolution, high gain, and photo response to near infrared. AN/AVS–6 is a lightweight, binocular, night vision imaging system developed by the US Anny specifically for helicopter flying. The system can be mounted to a variety of aviator helmets, including the SPH–4B, HGU–56P, HGU–55/P, HGU–55/G, HGU–26/P and Alpha. A 25mm eye relief eyepieces easily accommodate eyeglasses. Low-profile battery pack improves aviator head mobility and increases battery life. Other features include flipup/flop-down capability, simple binocular attachment, individual interpapillary adjustment, tilt, vertical and fore-aft adjustments to fit all aviators.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Thailand can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale supports the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives as outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Thailand.

TRIBUTE TO ESTHER CODY SPLITT

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize and honor Esther Cody Splitt, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Her incredible life of ''firsts'' and extraordinary service to her community and country began with her birth in the historic year of 1919, the year women earned the right to vote. With encouragement from her smart and strong-willed Irish mother, Cody grew up in Wausau during the Great Depression, when money for entertainment was nonexistent. Instead of sending Cody to the movies, she told her to go to the county courthouse and watch the lawyers for free. ''Enchanted'' by what she saw, Cody returned home and told her mother she had decided to become a lawyer. Her mother supported

her dreams and told her there was ''no reason she could not be a wife, mother and a lawyer, just as a man is a husband, father and lawyer.'' That prescient inspiration became reality when Cody graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School, one of only five women in the class of 1949.

Before attending law school, Cody already had a successful career as one of the first women to serve in the U.S. Navy. She said the day she was admitted to the WAVES—Women Accepted for Volunteer Services—was the turning point of her life. Fascinated by politics, Cody was disappointed to learn she was assigned to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. She said to the assigning officer, ''That's lovely, but I really would like to go to Washington, D.C. What do you suppose?'' She was granted assignment to a naval intelligence unit in Washington, DC, where she worked on cracking the Japanese code during World War II. She was quickly promoted to lead her fellow WAVES in Washington, a post where she oversaw the careers and well-being of 200 women. At the end of the war, Cody heard the GI bill would pay for her tuition to law school, a fact she confirmed by going to the Library of Congress and reading the entire bill.

Cody married her husband, Harley, also a UW law student, and moved to Appleton after graduation to open the second woman-owned law firm in Outagamie County. It was not easy for even a highly skilled female attorney to attract clients in the 1940s. In fact, her first client walked out of her office upon learning ''Cody Splitt'' was a woman. The scarcity of a client base forced her to close her practice after a year. Undaunted, Cody dedicated herself to her community, serving as a supervisor on the Outagamie County Board, president of the Outagamie County Bar Association, and a member of the American Association of University Women, the Fox Valley Human Rights Council, and the Alliance for the Mentally Ill. She also held various leadership roles in the Republican Party. She built a thriving law practice from which she retired at the age of 75.

Cody has received many well-deserved accolades for her work, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Law Journal and a Woman of the Year Award from the National Organization for Women. Her legacy will live on for decades to come through her scholarship and other charitable funds with the Appleton Community Foundation.

I am privileged to acknowledge the life and work of Cody Splitt, and on the occasion of her 100th birthday, I wish her good health and happiness for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GAIL ZIMMERMAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, today I wish to celebrate the St. Anthony Tri-Parish Catholic School Foundation's 2019 honoree, Dr. Gail Zimmerman.

The foundation supports the wonderful work of the St. Anthony Tri-Parish Catholic School in Casper, WY. The school is dedicated to achieving academic excellence in a faith-filled community and living a life committed to Christian service. Since 1927, the school and staff have provided a high standard of academic achievement while instilling Christian values. The schools strong religious and educational leadership to Casper students from preschool through eighth grade.

On October 10, 2019, the foundation will host their annual Joy Breakfast. The foundation honors individuals who make outstanding contributions to St. Anthony School and provide exceptional support to the Casper community. Dr. Gail Zimmerman is the perfect choice for this honor. Gail, with his late wife Anne, has a long history of personal beneficence and public service. The community looks forward to this breakfast and recognizing the annual honoree's invaluable contribution and dedication to the St. Anthony's Tri-Parish Catholic School Foundation.

Gail is an accomplished academic, a selfless servant, and an avid sportsman. His father was a farmer and pastor, contributing greatly to Gail's work ethic and Christian values. Gail attended high school in Nebraska, then served in the U.S. Army. While serving, Gail met his wife, Lois. The ceasefire in Korea occurred while he was in training, enabling him to return to Nebraska for his undergraduate education.

Gail received his master's at the University of Montana while teaching in Torrington, WY, and earned his Ph.D. in physiology and microbiology at the University of Wyoming while teaching in Casper, WY. He taught nurses and premedical students at Casper College for 23 years before furthering his education and becoming a broker. Dr. Zimmerman was elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives in 1985, then to the Wyoming Senate in 1989. He served a total of 14 years in our State legislature.

In 1975, Lois passed away. Together they had four children: Rhonda, Mitchell, Michael, and Renee. Five years later, Gail married Anne Templeton, a surgeon with whom I worked. They spent 24 happy years until her passing in 2004.

Gail's community involvement, philanthropic engagements, and hobby interests are extensive. He has been influential with the Casper Petroleum Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, Polestar Outdoors, the Dallas Safari Club Wyoming Chapter, and the Wyoming Water Quality and Pollution Control Association. He also served as the Director of the Werner Wildlife Museum and Wyoming State Wastewater Training Center, Chairman and CEO of the Wyoming Employee Resource Capital & Service, and Trustee of the John Templeton Foundation as well as the Zimmerman Family Foundation. He somehow finds time to attend collector car shows and Alaskan fishing trips. Gail is also a member of the Casper Rotary Club.

Gail and his wife Anne generously contributed their time and resources to Wyoming's schools and spiritual growth. They promoted human rights and supported fellow Christians around the world. The Zimmerman Science Awards and Zimmerman Family Foundation helped countless Wyoming students and people in need to further their education. They provided a much needed lift to those seeking to unlock their true potential. Gail is a pillar of the Casper community. He exemplifies Christian values and is a testament to the Code of the West.

Madam President, it is with great honor that I recognize this outstanding member of our Wyoming community. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in extending our congratulations to Dr. Gail Zimmerman upon his selection for this special award.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CENTENNIAL OF JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, today I wish to honor John Brown University's centennial anniversary.

On September 29, 1919, John E. Brown, Sr., founded a school in Siloam Springs, AR, to educate young men and women of any means ready to dedicate themselves to a life of public service. Guided by one fundamental belief, ''Christ over all,'' education at JBU has never been merely academic. The school's founder was committed to the holistic development of students and sought to form an institution that would serve as a place to learn, as well as a place to worship and work with emphasis placed equally on the head, heart and hands.

In its early days, JBU offered an associate's degree program and consisted of three colleges: Siloam Springs School of the Bible, John E. Brown Vocational College, and John E. Brown College. Students were required to choose an academic major, attend classes half the day, and work the other half.

In 1934, JBU expanded into a 4-year university with degree programs in construction, engineering, agriculture, and education, along with a core of liberal arts and Bible classes. By 1962, it was nationally accredited. Since then, academic emphasis and growth have continued to flourish with the establishment of an honors program, a degree completion program, and a graduate school. JBU now has an enrollment of nearly 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students from 38 States and 53 foreign countries.

Although much has changed over the past 100 years, John Brown University remains committed to its spiritual identity and mission to educate students in the head, heart, and hand. I congratulate JBU for reaching this milestone and look forward to its next century of continued success.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RENO + SPARKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I come forward today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce. In 1890, the Reno Commercial Club and Reno Business League were born out of a need to enhance the city of Reno as a commercial center. In 1919, the two merged to form the Reno Chamber of Commerce, and in 1970, the chamber expanded to include the city of Sparks. In 2018, the Latino Chamber of Commerce merged with the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce to provide wider representation for the community's diversity of businesses and people.

Today, the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in northern Nevada with over 1,800 registered businesses that employ over 85,000 individuals in Washoe County. The Chamber has 42 ambassadors, as well as volunteers from a wide variety of industries who meet monthly to celebrate success stories and aid in event planning. The chamber also delivers more than 4 million annual leads and referrals through its online directory and offers free educational programs, training events, and countless opportunities for member connectivity. Through the Reno + Sparks Leadership Program, now in its 34th year with 1,100 alumni, the chamber cultivates leaders by providing opportunities to volunteer and support the community while immersing participants in the issues and challenges of the region. It also hosts elected officials and issues its public policy platform each State legislative session to advocate on behalf of free enterprise and a robust economy.

Since 1919, the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce has advocated on behalf of all businesses, provided resources and support to its members, and connected its members with new customers and partners. The northern Nevada economic landscape is stronger and more diverse because of the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce's many efforts to support local leaders and small businesses throughout the region.

Through booms and busts, the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce has been a steadfast force in our community. From ribbon-cutting ceremonies to its long-running leadership program, the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce has been a reliable and valuable resource for northern Nevadans. Its dedication to economic prosperity and communal inclusivity for northern Nevada has stood for a century, and I am excited to see what they have in store for the next 100 years.●

TRIBUTE TO MARK DUFFIN

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, along with my colleagues Senator James Risch, Representative Mike Simpson, and Representative Russ Fulcher, I congratulate Mark Duffin on his retirement from the Idaho Sugarbeet Growers Association, after serving as the association's executive director for the past more than 28 years.

We have greatly valued Mark's insight and partnership on agricultural and related issues over the years. Mark has not only been an Idaho agricultural leader, but also a national agricultural leader, given the high profile of the sugarbeet industry and the crucial role Idaho plays in supplying the market. Mark has been a stalwart advocate for Idaho's sugarbeet growers and provided essential guidance on Federal policy matters impacting the industry, particularly trade, transportation and labor. From sharing the growers' perspective on multiple farm bill reauthorizations, international trade agreement negotiations, natural resource management, and much more. Mark has provided helpful perspective on Federal policy over the years. Throughout, his judicious, considerate, and experienced approach has been instrumental.

His understanding of the challenges of agricultural production and appreciation for those he represents is apparent in his thoughtful advocacy. Mark grew up on a farm in southeastern Idaho and farmed with his brother before leading the association. The majority of this Idaho congressional delegation had the honor of serving with him in the Idaho State Legislature, as Mark served in the legislature from 1984–1990. Mark also served as the Power County Farm Bureau president, president of Food Producers of Idaho, and president of the University of Idaho College of Agriculture's Agricultural Consulting Council.

We thank Mark for his assistance on behalf of Idahoans and the producers he has represented and wish him well on his retirement. We hope Mark enjoys his retirement, but should he find himself with some spare time, he can always find work driving trucks for his friends and neighbors in the Idaho sugarbeet industry.●

TRIBUTE TO JERI BARR

● Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, today, I am honored to recognize in the RECORD Mrs. Jeri Barr of Marietta, GA, who announced earlier this year that she would step down from the Center for Family Resources and whose service to the community will soon be celebrated at a special event in her honor.

The Center for Family Resources provides service to families and individuals who are homeless or who are in danger of becoming homeless. Through short-term housing, job-hunting help, food assistance, and other services, the organization accomplishes much for the community.

Jeri Barr has been at the helm of the Center for Family Resources in Cobb County, GA, for 35 years. Cobb is my home county, and I have been glad to watch this organization grow under her leadership.

When Jeri took over in 1984, the organization had a staff of 11 and a budget of $350,000. Today, the Center for Family Resources owns and operates the Mansour Center, a $10 million, 60,000-square-foot facility that offers space to other nonprofits and conference space for the public, allowing for additional revenue to benefit the center's mission. Now, there are 25 staff members, and the organization's budget is nearly $3.5 million.

For many years, Jeri has given back to the community. She served the United Way, including as the director of their Volunteer Cobb service. She also led the East Cobb Newcomers Club, Cobb Christmas, Cobb County Rape Crisis Center, and Cobb County Community Council. Numerous other organizations have also benefitted from her work on their boards. Thanks to her leadership, each of these organizations has benefitted.

While she will be missed by the staff and all those involved with the Center for Family Resources, I am confident that she has prepared the organization well for the future. As Jeri and her husband, former U.S. Representative Bob Barr, prepare for this next exciting chapter, I congratulate them and wish them much happiness enjoying their children and grandchildren.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL GARY ALLEN JONES

● Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, sadly, the State of Georgia has said goodbye to one of its finest sons, COL (ret) Gary Allen Jones of Columbus.

Bonnie and I offer our deepest condolences to Gary's family, friends, and colleagues.

Gary served as a member of my Georgia strategic military advisory group, where he provided me and my staff with valuable insight, advice, and encouragement.

I first met Gary during a visit to Fort Benning in 2016, and I had the good pleasure of meeting him many times after that. I was always struck by Gary's warmth, his wisdom, and his stalwart dedication to service. No matter who you are, Gary treated you like a friend. He always went out of his way to help.

Gary was the epitome of a servant hero.

Like many brave Americans, Gary heeded the call of duty and entered the Armed Services. While in the Army, he received many prestigious awards, including the Silver Star, for his bravery and dedication to service. In 2018, Gary

was awarded the Fort Benning Commanding General's Award for Public Service.

Gary's dedication extended far beyond his time in the military. He was always a tireless advocate for his community, holding leadership positions in organizations like the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Historic Chattahoochee River Club, and the Columbus Uptown Board, among many others. In addition, Gary was a leader in his local church.

The Columbus area and the entire State of Georgia have been made better thanks in large part to people like Gary.

As we mourn Gary's passing, we should recognize his incredible legacy. It is one of warmth, decency, service, and honor.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1423. An act to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

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.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1423. An act to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 903. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron source, make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–114).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1201. A bill to amend the fossil energy research and development provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to enhance fossil fuel technology, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–115).

S. 1706. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–116).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Eugene Scalia, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Labor.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2531. 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. GARDNER:

S. 2532. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to promulgate regulations requiring manufacturers to give notice to consumers as to whether internet-connected devices contain cameras or microphones; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2533. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to Alaska Native elders for determining eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2534. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to Alaska Native elders for determining eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 2535. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis relating to the decline in the business formation rate in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2536. A bill to establish standards for the design of electronic nicotine delivery systems; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2537. A bill to ensure that recent actions involving Ukraine are not withheld from Congress and the people of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2538. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to repeal the requirement for unique health identifiers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2539. A bill to modify and reauthorize the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2540. A bill to reauthorize the EB–5 Regional Center Program in order to prevent fraud and promote and reform foreign capital investment and job creation in American communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2541. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2-fiscal-year budget authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2542. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make qualified biogas property and qualified manure resource recovery property eligible for the energy credit and to permit renewable energy bonds to finance qualified biogas property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 55. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security relating to ''Immigrant Investor Program Modernization''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 324. A resolution designating September 29, 2019, as ''National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 325. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the whistleblower complaint received on August 12, 2019, by the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community should be transmitted immediately to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. JONES, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 326. A resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 327. A resolution designating September 23, 2019, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'' to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 328. A resolution honoring the life, legacy, and achievements of Marca Bristo; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 329. A resolution designating September 2019 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 61

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 61, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada.

S. 120

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit governmental discrimination against providers of health services that are not involved in abortion.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 433

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 541

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 541, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to establish a pilot program for providing portable benefits to eligible workers, and for other purposes.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct payment to physician assistants under the Medicare program for certain services furnished by such physician assistants.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 638, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, and for other purposes.

S. 640

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 640, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require pharmacy-negotiated price concessions to be included in negotiated prices at the point-of-sale under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) were added as cosponsors of S. 743, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as ''Merrill's Marauders'', in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend the America COMPETES Act to require certain agencies to develop scientific integrity policies, and for other purposes.

S. 778

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 778, a bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.

S. 785

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, a bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 894, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

S. 897

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the definition of ''family farmer'' .

S. 970

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 982, a bill to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1037

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize provisions relating to rural health clinics under Medicare.

S. 1067

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1067, a bill to provide for research to better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment affecting individuals in the scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics workforce and to examine policies to reduce the prevalence and negative impact of such harassment, and for other purposes.

S. 1168

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1168, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 1188

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 1190, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payments for certain rural health clinic and Federally qualified health center services furnished to hospice patients under the Medicare program.

S. 1198

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1198, a bill to ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1218, a bill to require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor based on the results of the review, and for other purposes.

S. 1263

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

S. 1368

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1368, a bill to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

S. 1541

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1541, a bill to increase the minimum age for sale of tobacco products to 21.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1590, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1618

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1618, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the capacity to improve health outcomes and increase access to specialized care.

S. 1627

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the section 45 credit for refined coal from steel industry fuel, and for other purposes.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 1841

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1841, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the publicly traded partnership ownership structure to energy power generation projects and transportation fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 1918

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1918, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for summer food service program delivery.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the integration of baseball.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2203

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2203, a bill to extend the transfer of Electronic Travel Authorization System fees from the Travel Promotion Fund to the Corporation for Travel Promotion (Brand USA) through fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes.

S. 2322

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2322, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2417, a bill to provide for payment of proceeds from savings bonds to a State with title to such bonds pursuant to the judgment of a court.

S. 2427

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2461, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2487

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2487, a bill to improve the effectiveness and efficiency and reduce the cost of the supply chain and inventory management of the Department of Defense by consolidating unnecessary and unneeded storage centers.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 318

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 318, a resolution to support the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Sixth Replenishment.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 324—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 29, 2019, AS ''NATIONAL URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE DAY''

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 324

Whereas over 80 percent of people in the United States live in or near cities, which typically have limited opportunities for residents to access nature and experience outdoor recreation;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System under the United States Fish and Wildlife Service manages 567 national wildlife refuges that constitute a national network of land and water managed for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide opportunities for people to discover and appreciate nature;

Whereas there is a refuge located within a 1-hour drive of every metropolitan area in the United States;

Whereas the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program under the United States Fish and Wildlife Service—

(1) focuses on introducing people living in densely populated areas to the more than 100 national wildlife refuges near urban areas; and

(2) promotes wildlife conservation and the enjoyment of hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreational activities close to where people live;

Whereas the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program focuses on public-private partnerships—

(1) to improve wildlife conservation; and

(2) to promote access to recreation on and off national wildlife refuges, including recreational activities such as hunting and fishing; and

Whereas by exploring community-centered approaches to address local needs, engaging the next generation of anglers and hunters, and providing infrastructure and safe access, the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program helps local organizations, cities, and towns across the United States engage in conservation activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 29, 2019, as ''National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day'';

(2) encourages the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to increase access to outdoor recreational opportunities for urban communities; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to visit and experience the more than 100 urban national wildlife refuges of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 325—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT RECEIVED ON AUGUST 12, 2019, BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE OF THE SENATE AND THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 325

Resolved, That—

(1) the whistleblower complaint received on August 12, 2019, by the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community shall be transmitted immediately to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives should be allowed to evaluate the complaint in a deliberate and bipartisan manner consistent with applicable statutes and processes in order to safeguard classified and sensitive information.

SENATE RESOLUTION 326—RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICORPS

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. JONES, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 326

Whereas the spirit of service has defined the United States and strengthened the bonds of community for nearly 250 years;

Whereas September 12, 2019, will mark the 25th anniversary of the first class of AmeriCorps members, who pledged to ''get things done'';

Whereas, since 1994, more than 1,100,000 individuals of all ages and backgrounds have joined AmeriCorps, serving more than 1,500,000,000 hours and improving the lives of countless people in the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps members address the most pressing challenges facing the United States by educating students for jobs of the 21st century, expanding economic opportunity, addressing the needs of military families and a generation of veterans returning from war, helping communities rebuild after natural disasters, supporting communities combatting the opioid epidemic, and preserving the parks and public lands of the United States;

Whereas approximately 75,000 AmeriCorps members serve each year in more than 21,000 locations nationwide and, along with more than 200,000 Senior Corps volunteers serving in more than 23,000 locations, bolster the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to the well-being of the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps expands opportunities for AmeriCorps members by providing experience, career skills, and support for higher education, and, since 1994, AmeriCorps members have earned more than $3,700,000,000 in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to repay qualified student loans or pay for other higher education expenses;

Whereas AmeriCorps is a model public-private partnership that generates hundreds of millions of dollars of nongovernmental resources each year to strengthen community impact and increase return on taxpayer dollars;

Whereas AmeriCorps, working hand-in-hand with its network of Governor-appointed State service commissions, has developed an efficient and effective structure for engaging individuals in results-driven service that is poised for further growth and success in the future;

Whereas AmeriCorps was built upon decades-old legacies of citizen service established by the Peace Corps, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program, the Senior Companion Program, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP);

Whereas national service programs create understanding that unites citizens and bridges gaps across races, generations, social classes, and geographic boundaries;

Whereas national service brings tangible benefits to the communities being served as well as to individuals providing the service, including improved health, expanded economic opportunity, and increased civic participation;

Whereas AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service and, after their terms of service, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, public servants, and civic leaders at disproportionately high rates; and

Whereas the Corporation for National and Community Service has led efforts to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering in the United States for the last quarter century: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the significant impact and value of AmeriCorps members, alumni, and community partners over the past 25 years;

(2) recognizes the legacy of service of Senior Corps volunteers and all of the national service members in the United States; and

(3) encourages citizens of all ages to find ways to give back to their communities and the United States through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 327—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 23, 2019, AS ''NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY'' TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THE PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 327

Whereas individuals who are 65 years of age or older (referred to in this preamble as ''older adults'') are the fastest growing segment of the population in the United States, and the number of older adults in the United States will increase from approximately 52,000,000 in 2018 to an estimated 95,000,000 by 2060;

Whereas approximately 30 percent of older adults in the United States fall each year, with each 5-year increment in age increasing the risk of falls;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults;

Whereas, in 2018, approximately 3,000,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and nearly 870,000 of those older adults were subsequently hospitalized;

Whereas, in 2017, more than 31,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls, and the death rate from falls of older adults in the United States is expected to continue to sharply rise to more than 100,000 per year by 2030;

Whereas, in 2015, the total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults, adjusted for inflation, was approximately $50,000,000,000;

Whereas, if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost of fall injuries will surpass $100,000,000,000 by 2030; and

Whereas evidence-based programs reduce falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, reduction of home hazards, and fall prevention education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 23, 2019, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'';

(2) recognizes that there are proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies;

(3) commends the 72 member organizations of the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 43 States and the District of Columbia for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about preventing falls among older adults;

(4) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal, State, and local governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to raise awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults in the United States;

(5) recognizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its work developing and evaluating interventions for all members of health care teams to make falls prevention a routine part of clinical care;

(6) recognizes the Administration for Community Living for its work to promote access to evidence-based programs and services in communities across the United States;

(7) encourages State health departments and State units on aging, which provide significant leadership in reducing injuries and related health care costs by collaborating with organizations and individuals, to reduce falls among older adults; and

(8) encourages experts in the field of falls prevention to share their best practices so that their success can be replicated by others.

SENATE RESOLUTION 328—HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MARCA BRISTO

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 328

Whereas Marca Bristo was born on June 23, 1953, in Albany, New York, and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin, and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Rush University in Chicago, Illinois;

Whereas Marca Bristo became paralyzed from the chest down after a diving accident at age 23;

Whereas Marca Bristo founded Access Living, one of the leading disability rights and service organizations in the United States, in 1980, and advised and mentored disability, political, civic, and business leaders in Chicago, in the State of Illinois, and across the United States for almost four decades while growing the global influence of Access Living as a model for disability-led advocacy and peer support;

Whereas Marca Bristo co-founded the National Council on Independent Living in 1983;

Whereas Marca Bristo played a critical role in the passage of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–259; 102 Stat. 28), the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (Public Law 100–430; 102 Stat. 1619), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–325; 122 Stat. 3553);

Whereas Marca Bristo received the Distinguished Service Award of the President of the United States in 1992;

Whereas, in 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed Marca Bristo to serve as chairperson on the National Council on Disability, making Bristo the first person with a disability to serve in that role, which she held until 2002;

Whereas Marca Bristo—

(1) served as Vice President of North America for Rehabilitation International;

(2) participated in the negotiation sessions for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which the United Nations adopted in 2006; and

(3) worked tirelessly in 2012 and 2014 for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and

Whereas Marca Bristo dedicated her life to the principle that all people with disabilities deserve social inclusion and the right to determine their own life choices: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life, legacy, and achievements of Marca Bristo, one of the leading advocates in the United States for people with disabilities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 329—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS ''NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 329

Whereas more than 291,000 individuals in the United States live with spinal cord injuries, which cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages;

Whereas there are approximately 17,730 new spinal cord injuries in the United States each year;

Whereas more than 42,000 individuals with spinal cord injuries are veterans;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries;

Whereas more than half of all spinal cord injuries to individuals 30 years of age or younger occur as a result of motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas the average remaining years of life for individuals living with spinal cord injuries has not improved significantly since the 1980s;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce, prevent, and reverse paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for individuals living with spinal cord injuries, enhancing the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2019 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and their families.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 941. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1158, to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 941. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1158, to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''DHS Cyber Hunt and Incident Response Teams Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CYBER HUNT AND INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(iv), by inserting '', including cybersecurity specialists'' after ''entities'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (m) as subsections (g) through (n), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) CYBER HUNT AND INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall maintain cyber hunt and incident response teams for the purpose of leading Federal asset response activities and providing timely technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal

entities, including across all critical infrastructure sectors, regarding actual or potential security incidents, as appropriate and upon request, including—

''(A) assistance to asset owners and operators in restoring services following a cyber incident;

''(B) identification and analysis of cybersecurity risk and unauthorized cyber activity;

''(C) mitigation strategies to prevent, deter, and protect against cybersecurity risks;

''(D) recommendations to asset owners and operators for improving overall network and control systems security to lower cybersecurity risks, and other recommendations, as appropriate; and

''(E) such other capabilities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(2) ASSOCIATED METRICS.—The Center shall—

''(A) define the goals and desired outcomes for each cyber hunt and incident response team; and

''(B) develop metrics—

''(i) to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of each cyber hunt and incident response team in achieving the goals and desired outcomes defined under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) that—

''(I) are quantifiable and actionable; and

''(II) the Center shall use to improve the effectiveness and accountability of, and service delivery by, cyber hunt and incident response teams.

''(3) CYBERSECURITY SPECIALISTS.—After notice to, and with the approval of, the entity requesting action by or technical assistance from the Center, the Secretary may include cybersecurity specialists from the private sector on a cyber hunt and incident response team.''; and

(4) in subsection (g), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', or any team or activity of the Center,'' after ''Center''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', or any team or activity of the Center,'' after ''Center''.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term ''Center'' means the national cybersecurity and communications integration center established under section 2209(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(b));

(B) the term ''cyber hunt and incident response team'' means a cyber hunt and incident response team maintained under section 2209(f) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(f)), as added by this Act; and

(C) the term ''incident'' has the meaning given the term in section 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(a)).

(2) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of the first 4 fiscal years after the date of enactment of the DHS Cyber Hunt and Incident Response Teams Act of 2019, the Center shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) information relating to the metrics used for evaluation and assessment of the cyber hunt and incident response teams and operations under section 2209(f)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(f)(2)), as added by this Act, including the resources and staffing of those cyber hunt and incident response teams; and

(B) for the period covered by the report—

(i) the total number of incident response requests received;

(ii) the number of incident response tickets opened; and

(iii) a statement of—

(I) all interagency staffing of cyber hunt and incident response teams; and

(II) the interagency collaborations established to support cyber hunt and incident response teams.

(c) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to S. 1273, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, and for other purposes, dated September 24, 2019 for the reasons as stated in the RECORD.

OBJECTION TO THE COPYRIGHT ALTERNATIVE IN SMALL-CLAIMS ENFORCEMENT (CASE) ACT OF 2019

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, our laws and rules don't work unless they work for everyone. Individuals and small businesses should have the same rights—and the same ability to enforce those rights—as big corporations. I agree that individual creators are less likely than Disney or Sony to reap the full benefits of the copyright system when their creations are stolen for unfair commercial gain. That is a problem. However, the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act (CASE Act) of 2019 is not the right solution.

The CASE Act would create an extrajudicial, virtually unappealable tribunal that could impose statutory damages of $30,000 on an individual who posts a couple of memes on social media, even if the claimant sustained little or no economic harm. Even the threat of such a judgment could stifle the legitimate fair use of content and be a boon to copyright trolls who harass and threaten innocent internet users to win settlements. That is a terrible result for freedom of expression, and it isn't even the type of activity the supporters of this bill are trying to target.

Our copyright system is a careful balance between protecting our First Amendment values and ensuring that authors, photographers, graphic designers, and other creators can protect their works and earn a living. The CASE Act does not get the balance right, and that is why I am placing a hold on this bill.

For these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to take up or pass the CASE Act by unanimous consent.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr, President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Eugene Scalia, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Labor.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION AND SPACE

The Subcommittee on Aviation and Space of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25, S.J. Res. 54 be discharged from the Committee on Armed Services and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. Further, I ask that the time until 12:15 p.m. be equally divided between the leaders or their designees on the joint resolution and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on the resolution. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate proceed to the consideration of resolutions to instruct conferees to be submitted pursuant to the order of September 18, 2019; that they be made pending and reported by number with concurrent consideration until 3:45 p.m., equally divided between the leaders or their designees; and that at 3:45 p.m., the Senate vote on the resolutions in the order listed, with 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TERRORIST AND FOREIGN FIGHTER TRAVEL EXERCISE ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 109, H.R. 1590.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1590) to require an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 1590) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DHS CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 113, H.R. 1158.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1158) to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Hassan substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 941) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''DHS Cyber Hunt and Incident Response Teams Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CYBER HUNT AND INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(iv), by inserting '', including cybersecurity specialists'' after ''entities'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (m) as subsections (g) through (n), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) CYBER HUNT AND INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall maintain cyber hunt and incident response teams for the purpose of leading Federal asset response activities and providing timely technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities, including across all critical infrastructure sectors, regarding actual or potential security incidents, as appropriate and upon request, including—

''(A) assistance to asset owners and operators in restoring services following a cyber incident;

''(B) identification and analysis of cybersecurity risk and unauthorized cyber activity;

''(C) mitigation strategies to prevent, deter, and protect against cybersecurity risks;

''(D) recommendations to asset owners and operators for improving overall network and control systems security to lower cybersecurity risks, and other recommendations, as appropriate; and

''(E) such other capabilities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(2) ASSOCIATED METRICS.—The Center shall—

''(A) define the goals and desired outcomes for each cyber hunt and incident response team; and

''(B) develop metrics—

''(i) to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of each cyber hunt and incident response team in achieving the goals and desired outcomes defined under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) that—

''(I) are quantifiable and actionable; and

''(II) the Center shall use to improve the effectiveness and accountability of, and service delivery by, cyber hunt and incident response teams.

''(3) CYBERSECURITY SPECIALISTS.—After notice to, and with the approval of, the entity requesting action by or technical assistance from the Center, the Secretary may include cybersecurity specialists from the private sector on a cyber hunt and incident response team.''; and

(4) in subsection (g), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', or any team or activity of the Center,'' after ''Center''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', or any team or activity of the Center,'' after ''Center''.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term ''Center'' means the national cybersecurity and communications integration center established under section 2209(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(b));

(B) the term ''cyber hunt and incident response team'' means a cyber hunt and incident response team maintained under section 2209(f) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(f)), as added by this Act; and

(C) the term ''incident'' has the meaning given the term in section 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(a)).

(2) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of the first 4 fiscal years after the date of enactment of the DHS Cyber Hunt and Incident Response Teams Act of 2019, the Center shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) information relating to the metrics used for evaluation and assessment of the cyber hunt and incident response teams and operations under section 2209(f)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(f)(2)), as added by this Act, including the resources and staffing of those cyber hunt and incident response teams; and

(B) for the period covered by the report—

(i) the total number of incident response requests received;

(ii) the number of incident response tickets opened; and

(iii) a statement of—

(I) all interagency staffing of cyber hunt and incident response teams; and

(II) the interagency collaborations established to support cyber hunt and incident response teams.

(c) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1158), as amended, was passed.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 313 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 313) designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2019, as ''Gold Star Families Remembrance Week''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 313) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 17, 2019, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 326, S. Res. 327, S. Res 328, and S. Res. 329.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions (S. Res. 326, S. Res. 327, S. Res 328, and S. Res. 329) were agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 25; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up 10 minutes each until 10:30 a.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, we are at a crucial point in our democracy, with a big decision to be made. Tomorrow, we can correct this unconstitutional violation by the President of the United States of taking military money, military readiness money, national security money, and moving it over for a border wall.

Canceling these 127 projects is not just a one-off. Let's remember that. We all know the President fully intends to keep at it. It has already been reported that if the President doesn't get the $5 billion he has requested for his wall in 2020, the next budget year, the administration plans to take another $3.6 billion from the Pentagon's construction budget. This President will not stop raiding funds we have appropriated, unless we stop him and terminate his sham emergency declaration.

The careful planning for the 127 canceled projects contrasts sharply with the administration's haphazard rush to build the President's wall. The President wants 500 miles of wall before the 2020 election. To do so, the administration may need to skirt the Federal procurement process and aggressively take lands away from private landowners through eminent domain.

Don't worry, says the President to his staff: I will pardon you if you break any laws.

This is no way to run a government, and, certainly, no way to spend taxpayer dollars.

Don't get me wrong. I support strong border security. We need well-trained officers, mobile assets, surveillance technology, and adequate resources. But a multibillion dollar wall is wasteful, ineffective, and offensive.

Now, I know some in this Chamber disagree with that opinion. The place to debate and decide how we spend taxpayer dollars to keep our border secure is in the Appropriations Committee, its various subcommittees, and on the floor of the Senate. That is what the Constitution says.

James Madison wrote in Federalist 84: ''An elective despotism was not the government we fought for; but one in which the powers of government should be so divided and balanced . . . that no one could transcend their legal limits without being effectually checked and restrained by the others.''

It is time for this body to check and restrain the executive branch. The President is invading our constitutional prerogative. He is not a despot. His constitutional powers are limited. It is up to us to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, as we swore an oath to do, and to do the work we were elected to do.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING MARY GAUTREAUX

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, scores and scores of my friends and neighbors at home in Oregon have been grieving since they learned the sad news about the passing of a remarkable woman, Mary Gautreaux, who died at her home over the weekend.

Mary Gautreaux was an astounding bundle of energy and passion. She had an incandescent smile, a huge heart for people who didn't have any power and clout, and the ability to make just about everybody she met more optimistic about the policies, opportunities, for the days ahead.

Mary came to our office back in the 1990s, after working at the U.S. Forest Service, planting trees and fighting fires. I can tell you that no resume or job title could have ever captured what Mary Gautreaux was all about or how hard she worked to protect the qualities that make Oregon different—the very special place she was proud to call home.

Mary Gautreaux, simply stated, was an all-star Oregonian. She loved her family and her coworkers with fierce loyalty. All of Mary's friends and neighbors knew, up close and personal, what an indomitable force she was. It didn't matter where you lived—from Portland to Burns and everywhere in between, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, the left, the right, mayors, county officials, everybody liked being with Mary. They liked working with Mary. They admired her professionalism, and they were so impressed that she always tried to involve everybody. She always wanted everybody to believe that they were special, that they counted. That is something we will always remember.

My office saw her as an anchor, as I did personally. For the better part of two decades, she and I traveled to hundreds of townhalls and community meetings in every nook and cranny of our State.

Mary and I always shared a kind of special joke. At one of these town meetings, somebody invariably would ask me something that I didn't know a lot about, and I would always say the same thing. I would say: Folks, I want you to know I am really digging into that issue, but Mary Gautreaux is one of the leading authorities on the subject.

She would be rolling her eyes. Then I would say: Well, feel free to call Mary on nights and weekends. She is always available for people.

My sense is that she got a kick out of it the first hundred times I did that. It was a special kind of bond we had, and that was vintage Mary Gautreaux.

But the fact is, she really did make herself available—always, any time, any day. She was always ready to pick up the phone and travel the State to solve a problem.

If I were to talk about all of the accomplishments and all of the results she produced for the people of Oregon, we would be here until New Year's Eve 2020. But I do want to talk about a handful that stand out for their exceptional breadth and impact.

Mary Gautreaux was an early advocate of reopening the Willamette River for the benefit of everybody in Portland. She knew it had the potential to be a treasure for the community. She was out there swimming every chance she could get, and she loved every time she could get out into the Willamette. But she recognized that not everybody had her physical abilities. So as was always her way, when Mary recognized a problem that needed fixing, she got to work. She pushed locally with the city and community activists to get a ladder installed at a popular swim spot.

As a result of this kind of effort and, frankly, her imagination—I don't know

that finding ladders is always in the job description, she just figured out how more people could have the opportunity to get in and out of the Willamette safely and take a swim in one of the country's most impressive urban rivers.

The whole metropolitan area of my hometown has her to thank for other important achievements. We have exceptional drinking water. Mary was instrumental in the creation of Portland's Bull Run water reserve being still, I believe, the only urban water source closed to people, entirely, for its protection. Everybody in Oregon, as they learn about this—because Mary never sought any publicity for herself—really has to thank Mary Gautreaux for that effort.

She really went to bat for rural Oregonians. She recognized, because I lived in southeast Portland and she lived in northeast, we loved Portland, but we didn't have the job of representing the ''state of Portland.'' Our job is to get into every nook and cranny of our State, and, particularly, when so many rural communities are so hard-hit, Mary would be there, helping small airports, tiny airports get bigger, helping veterans who couldn't get over icy roads to get to healthcare in the urban areas. She would help, from food pantries to rural hospitals. She did everything to make sure that, in those small communities, they would understand that they counted.

Sometimes people would point out to her: A lot of those communities had more cows than people. I always thought to myself: I probably didn't have the cows with me half the time, either.

That wasn't Mary's measure of public service. Mary's measure was to make sure that nobody was left behind.

One of her recent accomplishments for rural Oregon is also going to be treasured for a long time: the designation of the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area.

Frank Moore and Mary had a wonderful bond. Frank is a World War II hero. After the war, he came home to the Umpqua River. He has guided generations of fishing families on the river for years and years. Now he is 96. Mary made a judgment a few years ago. She was concerned that Frank might not get the designation and recognition he deserved while he was alive.

Mary basically pushed and pushed and pushed in order to make sure that the legislation I just mentioned would pass and actually get done. What a wonderful party we had for Frank Moore. If there was something Mary Gautreaux loved, it was a good party. You will hear a little more about that in just a moment.

On the national level, in southern Oregon, Mary's work on the designation of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument created unique wilderness protections, unique protections for ranchers and environmental folks. It is something that is going to be a model for generations to come. She was the key to the creation of the Badlands Wilderness. I remember when Mary Gautreaux pulled it off, people said: Because of Mary, it was a good day for the Badlands.

It is a wonderful accomplishment for folks in Central Oregon. In eastern Oregon, Mary's work on the East Moraines in the Wallowas was significant. She helped Oregonians everywhere, and she always tried to look ahead. Mary was one of the first who recognized in our State that recreation would be a powerful economic engine for years to come, billions of dollars coming into the State. There would be jobs for everybody from kayakers, to guides, to craft brewers. It was a huge economic multiplier.

What did we get out of it? We also got a chance to have a new focus on recreation. We have seen the creation of Oregon's Office of Recreation. It is a State office borne out of Mary's tireless work, organizing people all over the State to highlight the 7 Wonders of Oregon. I am here to say tonight that Mary Gautreaux, for lots of us, was the 8th Wonder of Oregon.

All of these achievements are part of her enduring legacy in our State, places people will visit, lands that are protected, ranchers, environmentalists. They are people who, before Mary showed up, might hardly ever talk to each other, let alone work together. She figured out a way to find common ground and achieve what I have just described.

I want to talk a little bit about travels with Mary, the laughs that we had on the long car rides, bouncing around ideas, occasionally a passionate debate on something that was important to Mary. She always recognized—like Patton, Mary knew that an Army marches on its stomach. She generously stocked our car with apples and oranges and fruits and every manner of snacks—some healthy, some perhaps not so healthy—as we drove around Oregon.

Let me tell you something, when Mary Gautreaux saw hungry folks as we made our way through the State of Oregon, what she did along the way is made sure the car—because she didn't want anybody to go hungry—got a whole lot lighter because she gave away so much healthy food to hungry folks who were hurting.

No task seemed trivial or thankless. I will tell you, when you rode around in a car with her—and, you know, most of the time in government, people are talking about bills and amendments or polls and the like. What Mary was always talking about was how it might be possible to help more people at the next stop. The key was, at the end of a trip, she would always say to a person or two: Give me your phone number. I want to be able to stay in touch. I want to check in.

That is the way she was, and sometimes, she would ask them to give her a name or two of somebody else they were worried about who had fallen on hard times—and Mary would reach out to them.

Another memory I wanted to share is a little bit raw, and the Senate may know how it is going to play out in the months ahead. A few months ago, while she lay in her hospital bed coming to terms with a fresh diagnosis of terminal cancer, she learned that a group of young doctors at the Oregon Health and Sciences University had been in training to do a rotation in Ontario, OR, in Malheur County—a city of 11,000 people, the gateway to the Owyhee Canyonlands, spectacular high desert landscapes that were near and dear to Mary's heart. But it seemed these young doctors never got to go outside.

Mary said: We better do something for all these young doctors. So she began asking for their supervisor so she could help these young doctors get out into the landscape.

I do want people to know that there is going to be an opportunity to enjoy that landscape, work in that landscape, particularly in traditional industries like agriculture, to a great extent because of what Mary inspired in Malheur County. She dedicated her last days talking to anyone and everyone who she thought could come together and help stabilize the small community in eastern Oregon.

I want people to be able to picture it because Nancy and I went to Mary's home in northeast Portland over these last difficult weeks. Mary always managed to cheer us up, rather than vice versa. One of the things that finally made us smile—and the hospice folks nearby—her whole room was built around the maps of the Owyhee, where she was looking at places for various uses that would be appropriate, how to protect the beauty of this extraordinary part of Oregon.

You would talk to her about the beauty. She would always say that the first time she saw it, it brought tears to her eyes when she viewed it, and she so wanted to help the ranchers and folks in that area. She was dedicated to preserving this part of the world.

It was Mary Gautreaux's dying wish that we could make this possible. Many of my colleagues may have seen me waiting on the floor of the Senate over the last few hours. Our chair, Senator MURKOWSKI, has had a busy schedule today. When I chaired the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we worked very close together. LISA MURKOWSKI has a big heart too. She is always interested in trying to bring people together.

I told Chair MURKOWSKI that, very shortly, I was going to be introducing legislation to recognize Mary's extraordinary work in Malheur County. We were going to have a community board, a community board to empower the ranchers and the small businesses and the families that had been there for years and wanted to know that there was a future. We wanted to call it the Mary Gautreaux Malheur County Community Empowerment for Owyhee Act,

or the Mary Gautreaux Malheur County CEO Act.

Stay tuned because you are going to hear me talk more about Mary's extraordinary efforts in this regard.

In the meantime, this weekend, we are going to do what Mary Gautreaux wanted us to do. We talked to her about it. We said: Mary, we want to make sure that we tell Oregon—and in this case, the country—about your life and your accomplishments and how much we loved you.

The way we are going to show her how much we loved her, this weekend, we are going to do what she wanted. We are going to have one heck of a giant party in her neighborhood, at her home, in northeast Portland. We are bringing together friends and family. She has so many of them.

I am looking down this row. I guess we broke most of the rules of the Senate because you are only supposed to have a couple of people here. As far as I can tell, the people I am honored to represent in the U.S. Senate—there are more than 4 million of them—half of them would have showed up and sat with the folks on that row if they could have.

This weekend, we are going to have a chance to tell each other stories. We are going to have a chance to talk about all of the people Mary helped. I am working now—because Mary loved bright colors—to make sure that her home and everybody there really sees what she wanted, was a lot of color and a lot of passion and a lot of friends and a lot of people talking about what a special place Oregon is and all these young people, who have done so much, are building on her approach for bringing people together, her values of caring, standing up for people who didn't have very much and were outside the power circle of Washington.

This is a hard talk to give, but it is sure easy to always remember what a wonderful person Mary Gautreaux was, how she represented the very best our State has been able to offer.

I told her privately right before she died: Mary, we love you. We will always be thinking of you.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:55 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 24, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOSEPH CELLA, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI , AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI, THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, AND TUVALU.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DAVID FABIAN BLACK, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2025.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DANIEL HABIB JORJANI, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE SOLICITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BRIAN MCGUIRE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MR. PATRICK CERMAK FOR RECEIVING THE LEWIS UNIVERSITY SIGNUM FIDEI AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Patrick Cermak, President and Chief Operating Officer of Wight and Company, for receiving the Lewis University Signum Fidei Award. The Signum Fidei Award, meaning "sign of faith," honors a distinguished member of the community that embodies the Lasallian mission of faith and service to the community.

Throughout his career, Pat has taken on many roles to help others succeed. Since joining Wight and Company in 2001, he has led the company's daily operations and overseen its financial management. Under his leadership, Wight and Company has experienced steady growth and instituted numerous initiatives including the Wight Sustainability Forum. The broad base of support for Pat's leadership demonstrates his credentials as an effective leader and his ability to work collaboratively to build long-term partnerships.

Pat Cermak has always strived to serve others unconditionally. He has been deeply involved with the Metropolitan Planning Council and Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. His tireless work has helped ensure that Chicagoland remains vibrant and sustainable. In another role, Pat serves as an Executive Board Member of the Design Futures Council. His work through this organization continues to shape the future of the architecture, engineering, and construction industry to benefit the people that it serves.

But in talking about all that Pat Cermak has done and achieved, it is essential to mention that what is most important to him is his faith and his family, and all who know him know what a kind and caring man he is.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Patrick Cermak on this tremendous honor. He is a man who lives out the values of faith and service to the community in all that he does. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family the best.

RECOGNITION OF EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50-year anniversary of the El Paso Community College in El Paso, Texas. Since opening in 1969, El Paso Community College has provided students with quality and affordable education.

With 28 students graduating in 1971, the ELCC has since graduated over 80,000. It boasts 5 campuses in the El Paso area, including its first campus at Fort Bliss Army Base. The college's more than 130 distinct programs give their average of 29,000 enrollees per semester a diverse array of career options to choose from.

Under President William Serrata, I know El Paso Community College will continue to thrive and benefit the members of the El Paso community for years to come, living true to their motto as the "Best Place to Start—and Finish." I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating their 50th anniversary.

HONORING DR. ERIC HOLMES FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former York City School District Superintendent Eric Holmes, who retired earlier this year after over thirty years of exceptional service with the district.

Beginning as a high school social studies teacher, Dr. Holmes served in a number of leadership capacities for the York City School District, before being named the district's 14th superintendent on July 1, 2013.

Dr. Holmes led the district to success during challenging times, including seeing the district through a state-mandated financial recovery plan. The district added a STEAM-science, technology, engineering, arts and math-academy through 10th grade and improved its benchmarks for student achievement.

Following the announcement of his retirement, Dr. Holmes said during an interview that: "It's a team effort, and that's the only way we would be able to accomplish our goals."

We know that good teams have great leaders and that is true of Dr. Holmes and his leadership with the York City School District. I thank him for his many years of service improving the lives of countless students in York County.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHARIS BIBLE COLLEGE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor the 25th Anniversary of Charis Bible College. It is nothing short of miraculous to observe the growth that has taken place within the past quarter-century. Charis was founded as Colorado Bible College in 1994 and was originally located in Colorado Springs.

Charis has grown from its first graduating class of 33 people in 1996, to include 26 campuses in the United States and 22 international locations. Charis's main campus has moved from the Springs to Woodland Park and is located on a beautiful piece of property overlooking Pikes Peak.

In my district, the Charis campus provides multiple programs of Bible-based education including a practical government degree. It also hosts faith-based events throughout the year with discussions on Christian art, culture, and politics.

Charis Bible College was created by Andrew Wommack, who has been a pioneer in Christian education and ministry. His vision to have men and women steeped in scripture has changed countless lives in my district and around the world.

It was not Andrew's original plan to create a college, but he was inspired by 2 Timothy 2:2 which says "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 25 years after receiving an answer to his prayer, Andrew is continuing to innovate and inspire new students.

Charis students and graduates have invested themselves in our nation through prison ministry, care for the homeless, church planting, healing of the sick, relief from addiction, service in our schools, establishment of Christian businesses, and practicing grace-touched citizenship that transforms culture, in the tradition of William Wilberforce.

It is my hope and prayer that as Charis continues to grow, it will continue its mission in Woodland Park for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING JUDY PRESTON OF RONAN

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judy Preston of Ronan, for serving her community and her leadership of the Bread Basket in Ronan.

An experienced project manager, Judy understands the importance of building effective business logistics. She serves as the organizational leader for Skill Builders, a company aimed at helping businesses improve overall performance. She is also a graduate of the Leadership Montana program which helps enhance participants' leadership skills.

Judy recently concluded her two-year term as board chair of the Ronan Bread Basket, a nonprofit organization that has provided food to neighbors in need for more than 30 years. Under her leadership, the emergency food pantry grew to triple its original size, increasing its capacity to serve others. The group's board expanded to 11 members.

Before her departure, The Montana Food Bank Network presented Judy with the Glacier Award: For Moving Mountains to End Hunger for reducing hunger in Montana and promoting food security through her work with the Ronan Bread Basket.

As chair of the board, Judy also implemented the BackPack Program in the Ronan school district. The program provides students with nutritious foods before weekends and holidays so they can have proper nutrition when school is out of session. During her term as chair, Judy led the fundraising efforts that enabled over 4,500 meals to be distributed to students in Ronan.

Madam Speaker, for her leadership of the Ronan Food Basket and her dedication to making sure no family or student in Ronan went hungry, I recognize Judy Preston for her spirit of Montana.

HONORING IAN PATRICK SCHWARBER, A TRUE SON OF AKRON, OH

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Ian Patrick Schwarber, who passed away on September 17, 2019. Ian was a loving husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend who devoted his life to creating a vibrant and prosperous community for the next generation.

Ian was born on October 31, 1980, in Akron, Ohio to Donald and Patricia Schwarber. Ian attended St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School and graduated from Archbishop Hoban High School. During his time at Hoban, Ian was a multi-sport athlete, lettering in both football and baseball. Ian was involved in a severe accident that damaged his leg and left him bedridden for nearly a year. Ian's strong faith and his perseverance—two of his most defining characteristics—brought him through this time and would ultimately guide the course of his life.

Upon graduation from Hoban, Ian left Akron to attend the University of Charleston where his passion for music and songwriting manifested itself into his band Blue Flashing Light. Along with his brother, Joshua, and his bandmates, Ian shared his talent and gifts with the world. Ian would later return to his hometown to finish college and earn his master's degree in Applied Politics from the University of Akron. Anyone who knew Ian recognized his brilliant light and his unwavering commitment to serving others. Whether it was his involvement with community nonprofit organizations like Project Learn Summit County and the Autism Society of Greater Akron, or to broader issues like expanding STEM opportunities to underserved youth and entrepreneurship, Ian gave one thousand percent of his time, energy, and talent.

Ian is most known for his entrepreneurial and innovative spirit that drove him into his next venture as the co-founder of the University of Akron's EXL Center, an initiative designed to help students emerge as civically-engaged, adaptable leaders, ready to join in the enterprise of building strong and sustainable communities. After launching the EXL center, Ian transitioned into the IT landscape, becoming the Chief Strategy Officer and a co-owner of DriveIT, a Tech-centric adult training center. Ian would later become Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at Akron-based IT services company CenterLink Technologies. Aside from his professional contributions, Ian was most proud of the family he created with his wife, Mackenzie Justice. Their children, Mary Justice and Jack, were the most precious gifts in his life.

Madam Speaker, Ian Schwarber was a true son of Akron. He was relentless in the promotion of any effort to amplify Akron and was a wellspring of ideas to move the community forward. Ian was willing to work with anyone to see a dream grow wings and take flight. May we all redouble our own efforts to love and serve others the way Ian so generously did during his life.

SIMPLE FAFSA ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Simple FAFSA Act.

Because today FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is anything but simple.

In fact, the 108-question application can be so daunting that as many as 40 percent of students and parents simply cannot complete it.

And that means they cannot get the help they need to make college more affordable, even though we have money available for them.

In fact, $2.6 billion went unclaimed for the 2018–2019 academic year.

So, let us do something to help these students and their families.

The Simple FAFSA Act reduces the number of supporting documents and many of the questions on the current FAFSA.

Verifying income will be much easier as parents will be able to retrieve and use the previous year's income data when applying under the bill.

Low-income students and families—like many in the Marianas—just need to file the FAFSA once, as opposed to annually, to automatically qualify for a full Pell Grant and attend Northern Marianas College debt-free.

The process is even faster for families receiving a means-tested benefit, like Medicaid, who will be able to skip all financial questions on the form.

And the legislation opens FAFSA to DREAMers and students with prior drug offenses so our country can fully benefit from their potential.

By simplifying the FAFSA, we help more students and their families receive the aid they need to succeed in their education and future careers.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to make college more accessible and affordable for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JANE DIFLEY FROM THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NH FORESTS

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Difley on the event of her retirement as President of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

A licensed forester, Jane's esteemed career included time at the American Forest Foundation and the Vermont Natural Resources Council before joining the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in 1996. In addition, Jane was the first woman elected to serve as the President of the Society of American Foresters. During her 23 years with the Forest Society, Jane has been a tireless advocate for land conservation in the Granite State.

At the helm of the Forest Society, Jane successfully heightened the pace of land conservation efforts in the face of increasing development. Under her direction, the Forest Society more than doubled the size of its conserved Forest Reservations to 56,000 acres and played a role in the conservation of over 290,000 acres overall. She advocated for the important role of Granite State forests in community recreation, wildlife habitat, and environmental health.

The important work accomplished during Jane's tenure at the Forest Society will serve as an enduring testament to her commitment to New Hampshire's forests. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Jane for her service and wish her the best of luck in her new chapter.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER PRESIDENT OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY DR. SAMUEL L. MYERS, SR.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Sr. on reaching his milestone centennial birthday this past April 18, which is being celebrated on September 27 at a gathering of friends, family, and community and national leaders at National Harbor in Maryland. From speaking out against segregation in the military as an Army captain during the Second World War to becoming one of the first African Americans to earn a doctorate in economics from Harvard University, from his efforts as part of the Civil Rights Movement to expand access to higher education to his championing of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) for more than half a century, Dr. Myers' life has been one of blazing trails and breaking down barriers.

In 1967, Dr. Myers assumed the position of President of Bowie State University, the oldest HBUC in Maryland and one of the oldest in the country. Under his administration, enrollment increased 200 percent and tensions between the student body and officials were

calmed by his skilled diplomacy and determination to ensure that high-quality education always came first. After ten years at Bowie State, Dr. Myers began an eighteen-year tenure as President of the National Association for Equal Opportunity (NAFEO). Representing 117 HBCUs, Dr. Myers fought tirelessly to secure much-needed funding for these colleges and universities to expand and offer more courses and degrees. I am proud, Madam Speaker, to be a member of the Congressional HBCU Caucus and to support Bowie State University and other HBCUs as they work hard to carry out their important mission of making educational achievement and career success more equitable in our country.

Even after his retirement from NAFEO, Dr. Myers has been a force for good in the community, working since 1995 as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Minority Access, Inc., an organization that works to expand the access of under-represented groups to institutions of higher education, federal and state governments, and private corporations. Dr. Myers has spent decades fighting for the public good, for equality, for justice, and for opportunity. His impact on education in my home state of Maryland and in our country cannot be measured and will surely be long-lasting. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Dr. Myers for his lifetime of service and wishing him a very happy 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE NAMING OF THE VERMONT AVENUE EXIT ON STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 10 IN HONOR OF THE EL SALVADOR COMMUNITY CORRIDOR

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the El Salvador Community Corridor (Corridor), the first designated Salvadoran community in the City of Los Angeles.

This vibrant Corridor, located in the Pico Union area in the southern region of downtown Los Angeles, honors the rich history, heritage and contributions of the Salvadoran American community. Murals throughout the Corridor depict the cultural pride, struggles and dreams of Salvadoran Americans.

Forty years of internal political turmoil forced individuals from the Republic of El Salvador to flee the country and seek peace and security in the United States. Today, it is estimated that nearly one million Salvadorans reside in Los Angeles, making Los Angeles home to the largest population of Salvadorans outside of El Salvador.

You cannot tell the story of Los Angeles without telling the stories of the Salvadoran American community—and of the community leaders, public servants, artists, teachers, neighbors, family members and friends who enrich Los Angeles in countless ways.

In 2012, the City of Los Angeles declared a section of Vermont Avenue as the El Salvador Community Corridor, a long over due recognition of the economic and cultural contributions of Salvadoran American individuals, families, and organizations. This designation—an important step for the community—created a special place for residents to celebrate their culture through businesses, retail, colorful art, food, clothing, and traditions.

This year, we celebrate the naming of the Vermont Avenue exit on State Highway 10 in honor of the Corridor. Another important step in honoring the integral role of the Salvadoran American community in the economy, culture and identity of Los Angeles.

I ask all Members to join me in commending the countless contributions of the Salvadoran American community to Los Angeles and recognizing integral economic and cultural role of the El Salvador Community Corridor.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBERT N. BULLOCK, POSTHUMOUSLY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Albert N. Bullock ''Al'' who passed away at the age of 96 on August 16, 2019 in Daly City after a remarkable life. Al was an unflappable photographer who filmed the attack on Pearl Harbor and covered many events that shaped the Bay Area, including the Patti Hearst kidnapping, the assassinations of Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk and the Jonestown mass murder where I met him. He will always have a special place in my heart.

Al was born in Utica, New York on March 5, 1923. He joined the U.S. Navy at age 17 which changed his life. His first job was washing airplanes and working in a photo lab where he discovered his talent and love for taking pictures. When a place in the Navy photography school opened, he was picked and received what he called the best education possible in photography, motion pictures and navigation. He graduated as a second class photographer's mate and was immediately hired by the government. He was shipped to Pearl Harbor and as fate would have it, the year was 1941. On December 7th, Al was on Ford Island and as the Japanese were dropping bombs right on top of him, he filmed the carnage with a hand-cranked 16mm camera. Ford Island was the strategic center of operations for the U.S. Navy in the Pacific, the location of Battleship Row. Assigned as a flag cameraman on the USS *Santa Fe,* he spent the entire war moving from one campaign to the next. In March 1945, he shot historic photos and footage of the burning and listing USS *Franklin* 50 miles off the coast of Japan. The USS *Santa Fe* rescued many sailors and helped put out the fires on the *Franklin.* Al was 22.

In 1950, Al moved to San Mateo in my Congressional District and held a variety of jobs selling China and silverware, taking photos and filming car races. One day in the 60s, he was filming a race that ended in a fiery crash. Roger Grimsby, an anchor and the news director at KGO–TV, watched him as he kept filming. He approached Al asking, ''You have any blood in your veins?'' He bought the footage for $25 and used it on the air that day. Thus began Al's pursuit to become a cameraman for KGO. In 1962, Grimsby, known as ''Grim Grimsby'' for his gruff no-nonsense delivery of the news, finally relented and hired him. Al stayed at KGO for 30 years covering the John F. Kennedy assassination, the Vietnam War, the birth of the free speech movement, the kidnapping of newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst, and the Loma Prieta earthquake.

He also covered a story that shaped my life and cemented my commitment to public service. Al flew to Guyana with my mentor and boss Congressman Ryan who took a delegation there to investigate the commune Jim Jones had built in Jonestown. Relatives and friends of Jones' followers suspected that he was holding them against their will. They were right and some 40 followers were ready to defect with our delegation. What unfolded was one of the deadliest mass murders in history. Congressman Ryan was assassinated on the airstrip in Port Kaituma, shot 45 times. Three journalists and one defector were shot dead. I was shot five times, left for dead but survived. In the commune, more than 900 followers were murdered with cyanide-laced Kool-Aid. Al was on a plane back to the Bay Area. Upon hearing the news he immediately returned to Guyana to cover the aftermath. Just nine days later, back in San Francisco, Al was sent to cover the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk. He witnessed and captured one of the most tumultuous and trying periods in Bay Area history.

Al's superb work was recognized with many awards including the California Press Photographer of the Year and the prestigious Silver Circle of the National Academy of TV Arts and Sciences in 2003.

Al Bullock is preceded in death by his ex-wife Edythe and survived by their three children, Candace, Bob and Georgette, their six grandchildren, Stephanie, Lindsey, Sean, Erin, Matthew, and four great-grandchildren, Kelly, Katie, Tyler and Adam.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Albert N. Bullock who served our country and led by example. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, a mentor to many, Mr. KGO to his colleagues, and one of a kind. He will be deeply missed.

RECOGNIZING MAX DISPOSTI AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Max Disposti, founder of the North County LGBTQ Resource Center, as my next Constituent of the Month. A longtime North County resident, Max's tireless work to open the Center filled a void in support services and resources for LGBTQ families and has made a positive impact on countless lives in our community.

Before Max founded the Center in 2011, many lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, and questioning youth and families had nowhere to turn in North County, lacking a sense of community that was desperately needed. With the help of others in the community like Maria Al Shamma, who now serves as Board Chair for the Center, Max is able to provide our LGBTQ neighbors with a safe place to receive resources and feel more comfortable in their community. Max and many others at the Center provide critical services such as support

groups for youth, seniors, and military service members, HIV and AIDS testing and prevention, counseling and assistance with housing and meals. They also provide civil rights advocacy, classes, and workgroups.

Ultimately, one of the most significant benefits of the Resource Center is its ability to make the LGBTQ community more visible in North County. Everyone in our community should feel safe and welcome. Unfortunately, that has not always been the experience of our LGBTQ neighbors. There is much more that we need to do to ensure that LGBTQ individuals have the same rights and protections as anyone else. That's why I was proud to help introduce and pass the Equality Act to finally, fully end discrimination against LGBTQ Americans. I'm proud to stand with Max and so many others in North County's LGBTQ community in fighting for equality.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. Max's contributions to our community are extraordinary, but I also want to recognize everyone else who helped launch the North County LGBTQ Resource Center and work to keep its doors open every single day. I thank them for everything they have done and will continue to do for the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, due to scheduling conflict, I missed votes. Had I been present, on Vote 539, I would have voted ''no,'' and on Vote 540, I would have voted ''aye.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I was absent Friday, September 20, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on Roll Call No. 539 and ''nay'' on Roll Call No. 540.

RECOGNIZING ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR ITS 150 YEARS AS A CONGREGATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the St. Peter Lutheran Church for 150 years of unfaltering service to its community. The church began in 1869 with a congregation of 26; the growing number of attendees quickly surpassed the capacity of the small church, and a new building was constructed across the street. In 1894, a community formed around the church, which became known as the town of Saint Peter. In 1971 a parochial school was added to the church grounds which still operates today.

To celebrate this historic occasion, the church will be holding honorary services dedicated to the anniversary on Sunday, November 10, 2019, at 9 AM. Immediately after the service there will be a presentation of the church's history, featuring memorabilia collected throughout the last 150 years.

I extend my well wishes to Reverend Ryan Meyer, the congregation, and the church anniversary committee as they celebrate this exciting event.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the St. Peter Lutheran Church and their entire congregation for their service and commitment to their community and to their faith throughout the past 150 years. I look forward to seeing the Saint Peter Lutheran Church continue to prosper.

HONORING THE FARMER'S DAUGHTERS' DRIVE-IN FOR 50 YEARS OF BUSINESS IN SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Farmer's Daughters' Drive-In for 50 years of business in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Farmer's Daughters' was founded in 1969 by Mr. Eddie Winslow and was run by his daughter Glenda Clausen and her husband Tom until 2006. It was then that Annette Osher bought the community staple. Ms. Osher has kept the community favorite alive and well. Small businesses like Farmer's Daughters' form the backbone of our North Country communities. They generate employment and job creation, while driving investment. Beyond that, small businesses become a part of the social fabric that makes our communities unique. Most small businesses survive fewer than five years so the 50th anniversary of a business is a momentous achievement.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate Annette Osher for reaching to this milestone. Annette is a great example of the entrepreneurial and community spirit that defines New York's 21st District. I look forward to her continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAY GREEN

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and remember the life of Ray Green, who passed away on August 7, 2019, at age 91.

Born in Cascade, Iowa in 1927, Ray displayed a natural gravitation towards leadership. Ray Green began his studies at my alma matter, Loras College, in Dubuque, Iowa. Not long after he started his education at Loras, Ray left to serve in the United States Army, where he fought in Italy during World War II. After returning from war, Ray finished his schooling and went on to start his long career in the automotive industry.

While working in auto sales, Ray advanced quickly at every stop that he made. In 1964, Ray Green was able to purchase his first car dealership in Monmouth, Illinois. Over the years, Ray owned and managed several car dealerships throughout Central Illinois. Ray also worked to improve his industry by serving as a director on many national auto retailer boards. All of Ray's hard work cemented his place as an inductee into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

Ray Green was a small and cunning businessman, but he was also known for his generosity and community service. He was heavily involved with the Knights of Columbus, Rotary Club, and the America Legion. Ray was also known for supporting those seeking a Catholic education. He helped to raise millions of dollars for Loras College and Routt Catholic High School, in Jacksonville, Illinois.

We mourn the passing of Ray Green, a friend and hero to many. He left a lasting impact on those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

TRIBUTE TO RANDON LANE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our region have been exceptional. After serving ten years on the Murrieta City Council, my good friend Randon Lane recently stepped down to take a position with the U.S. Department of Transportation, here in Washington, D.C.

After graduating from college, Randon began a career in business working for Fortune 500 companies including AT&T Broadband, Nextel and Sprint. Until recently, Randon served as a Public Affairs Manager for The Southern California Gas Company, the largest natural gas provider in the nation. In addition to his business career, Randon has long been active in public service. In 2003, he was appointed to the Murrieta Planning Commission. In the following years Murrieta witnessed an incredible 70 percent population explosion, one of the largest population increases in the nation during that period.

In 2008 Randon was elected to the Murrieta City Council. While successfully leading Murrieta as Mayor in 2011 and 2016, he along with the City Council continued to prioritize investments in infrastructure and public safety. Forbes named Murrieta the No. 1 post-recession ''boom town'' in America and FBI statistics rank Murrieta the third safest city in the Nation among cities with populations over 100,000 residents. Randon's strong leadership led his council colleagues to appoint him to represent them on agencies locally, regionally, statewide and nationally. Randon and his wife, Bridget ''Bo'', have been married for 21 years, 17 of those in Murrieta. Together they have a daughter, Chelsea, 27 and son-in-law Sean and two sons, Randon, Jr., 15 and Joshua,11.

Randon has contributed immensely to the betterment of our region and I am proud to

call him a dedicated public servant, American and friend. To conclude, Madam Speaker I want to thank Randon for his service to the Inland Empire—his dedication, insight and passion will be greatly missed. I wish him the very best in his new position with the Department of Transportation.

HONORING ARCHBISHOP MARY FLOYD PALMER

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Archbishop Mary Floyd Palmer, affectionately known as Bishop Mary. On March 16, 2019, Bishop Mary was installed as the first woman Presiding Prelate of the Philadelphia Council of Clergy, Inc.

The Philadelphia Council of Clergy, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 as an ecumenical group of multi-cultural faith-based leaders who desire to alleviate suffering, overcome oppression and foster justice and peace, not only in Philadelphia but in all communities nationwide.

Bishop Mary is the eldest daughter of Rev. Dr. Melvin and the late Mrs. Elizabeth Floyd. Bishop Mary is a graduate of the Philadelphia High School for Girls and has obtained a Doctor of Ministry. In July 2009, Bishop Mary was ordained and consecrated to the Episcopal Office of Bishop in Atlanta, Georgia. In May 2011, Bishop Mary was selected by the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women to receive their prestigious ''Woman of the Year in Ministry'' award.

In 2006, Bishop Mary entered full-time ministry as a Motivational Speaker. She is passionate about prison ministries and she serves as a volunteer instructor teaching a weekly Reality Life Skills Class for male inmates since 1988. In October 2011, she became Founder and Pastor of The Samaritan Temple, a place where hope exists. Bishop Mary serves as the Corresponding Secretary for the National Congress of Black Women, Philadelphia Chapter and actively serves in several capacities on several committees.

On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations to Archbishop Mary Floyd Palmer in achieving this historic appointment as the first woman Presiding Prelate of the Philadelphia Council of Clergy, Inc.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL CHERINGTON

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Dr. Michael Cherington for his 85th birthday.

Dr. Michael Cherington of Castle Rock, Colorado was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1934. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and later attended the University of Pittsburg School of Medicine. As such, he was destined to continue his career on the East Coast until a mentor directed him to take a year for residency. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Colorado Springs with his first wife, and that same year, he was drafted into the United States Army.

While in Colorado, Dr. Cherington opened his own private practice in neurology and he taught at the University of Colorado Medical School. He served his community very well in both capacities while helping thousands of patients across the state. He most notably cared for patients with varying degrees of neurological damage from lighting strikes. As a matter of fact, towards the end of his practice, he wrote an article about lightning strikes and the injuries they can cause, and it was published in ''SportsMedicine.''

Later, he became known as ''The Lightning Doctor'' after publishing many articles about lightning injuries and how to avoid such injuries. This eventually led to the creation of the Lightning Data Center in Denver, which brought together many lightning experts across several different areas of expertise and discipline. As ''The Lighting Doctor,'' he was featured on many local television stations, as well as, ABC's 20/20, National Geographic, and Unsolved Mysteries.

To this day, Dr. Cherington still lives happily in Colorado, almost sixty years later. In his spare time, he greatly enjoys spending time with his wife Nancy, his children, and nine grandchildren. I would like to thank Dr. Cherington for all his contributions and wish him a very Happy Birthday.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR BRUCE D. JENNINGS

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bruce D. Jennings on being named the 2018 Indiana High School Principal of the Year.

Annually since 1992, the Indiana Association of School Principals has recognized outstanding principals across our great state of Indiana. In his 12 years as principal at Bremen High School, Mr. Jennings has truly been an extraordinary educator, and it is clear this high honor is well-deserved. However, his impact goes far beyond the walls of Bremen High School.

In addition to his role as principal, Mr. Jennings has served his community in compassionate and philanthropic ways that have helped to advance educational opportunities for the next generation. As a member and advisor of organizations like the Marshall County Community Foundation, the Bremen Dollars for Scholars Organization, and Indiana University's Educational Leadership Program, Mr. Jennings works hard to build a bright future for Hoosier students and lead by example for educators across the country. His record of leadership and dedication reflects positively on Bremen High School and the northern Indiana community, and I am grateful for his innovative ideas that promote creativity, confidence, and discovery.

Mr. Jennings' ability to connect with students and teachers and share his passion for learning empowers everyone at Bremen High School to reach the next level of success. He is a true inspiration and valuable role model to us all, and I have no doubt Bremen students are well-equipped for whatever their futures may hold.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I want to thank Bruce Jennings for all he has done to educate, guide, and support his students and faculty. It is a privilege to represent principals like Mr. Jennings who help make our schools vibrant and our students' futures bright.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD McKENDREE CHAPEL

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Old McKendree Chapel in Jackson, Missouri on the occasion of its bicentennial. The Old McKendree Chapel was built in 1819 and held their first services on September 14th, a year and a half before Missouri was granted statehood.

The chapel was constructed by Methodist pioneers, who had been meeting at the site since 1809. It was named for the circuit-riding preacher, William McKendree, who visited the congregation in 1818. McKendree went on to become the first native-born bishop of the Methodist Church in the United States. The chapel was actively used until 1888. By the 1920s, the chapel was in disrepair and faced the threat of demolition.

Through the efforts of Rev. William Stewart, then pastor of New McKendree Church in Jackson, the historic chapel was saved. Restoration was completed in 1933 and the McKendree Chapel Memorial Association was founded to preserve the landmark for the enjoyment of future generations.

Today the chapel continues to serve as a holy place in the community. It is a national Methodist shrine visited by families from across the country each year.

For its contributions to the Jackson community and its place in Missouri history, it is my great pleasure to celebrate the Old McKendree Chapel today before the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 9, 2019 during roll call no. 515, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1420, Energy Efficient Government Technology Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.'' I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 516, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 1768, Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DUMPLING DAY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor National Dumpling Day. National Dumpling Day was inaugurated back in 2015 in Brooklyn, NY and is now celebrated across America every year on September 26.

Dumplings made their humble beginnings in Ancient China, almost 1,800 years ago, where they were known as jiaozi. In America, dumplings were introduced in the mid-1800s by Chinese laborers building the transcontinental railroad. From Korean mandu and Chinese soup dumplings, to the Indian samosa and Tibetan momo, dumplings have become a world delicacy and bear tremendous cultural significance in our Asian Pacific American communities. Today, families come together across our country to the table to wrap, cook and enjoy this delightful treasure.

In the 7th Congressional District of New York, we are proud to have CJ TMI Foods, a part of CJ America, as one of the country's largest dumpling manufacturers and the founder of National Dumpling Day. Since 1989, CJ TMI Foods has been a minority-owned business, creating fresh and tasty dumplings and noodles. The company has grown exponentially over the years by expanding into new facilities and employing over 400 people. I admire their trailblazing mission of connecting and inspiring individuals of all cultural identities through exposure to Asian food.

Dumplings are more than just delicious comfort food, they are a bonding experience among many of our families. I ask my colleagues in the 116th Congress to join me in celebrating National Dumpling Day and recognizing the value these ubiquitous and delicious pockets of dough carry, unifying neighbors and sparking joy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Chamber on September 19 and 20, 2019, due to an illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on Roll Call No. 537; ''yes'' on Roll Call No. 538; ''no'' on Roll Call No. 539; and ''yes'' on Roll Call No. 540.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with delight that I rise to honor the 1OOth Anniversary of the Buddhist Church of Florin as the congregation and greater community gathers for this historic occasion. This historical Church has served as the heart of the Florin Japanese-American community and a hub for social and religious gatherings alike.

In the 1890's, the Issei arrived in Florin and thrived in our region. In 1919, a few decades after the Issei's arrival, Japanese-American strawberry and grape farmers from Florin, Mayhew, and Elk Grove gathered to form the Buddhist Church of Florin. Tragically, World War II brought turmoil to our community and the church with Executive Order 9066. Because of the order of the relocation of all persons of Japanese ancestry, the church was locked and not in use until residents returned to the region after release.

Since the return of the congregation, the Buddhist Church of Florin has flourished and is now dedicated to sharing the wisdom and compassion of the Buddhist teachings, remembering the history of the Issei and Florin, and most importantly, provide a space for the community to connect. The Church provides social and cultural events, monthly low-cost lunches for seniors, and youth athletics such as basketball and martial arts.

Madam Speaker, as Florin residents and the greater community gather to celebrate this momentous day, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Buddhist Church of Florin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my votes on the following dates, September 17–20, due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: ''nay'' Roll Call No. 531; ''yea'' Roll Call No. 532; ''yea'' Roll Call No. 533; ''yea;'' Roll Call No. 534; ''yea'' Roll Call No. 535; ''yea'' Roll Call No. 536; ''yea'' Roll Call No. 537; ''yea'' Roll Call No. 538; ''nay'' Roll Call No. 539, and ''yea'' Roll Call No. 540.

HONORING JIM MALATICH

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Malatich for his over forty years of dedicated efforts in serving our community. During his time in human services, Jim worked as the former Director of the Adult Public Mental Health Programs for Travis County, and as the Chair for the Mental Health Directors Consortium for the Texas MHMR Centers.

Mr. Malatich is widely credited with piloting a wrap-around program for people needing mental health, substance abuse, and medical services long before the concept was commonplace. Further, during his time in Dallas, he implemented and chaired the Adult Community Resource and Coordination Group, the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority Provider Advisory Council, and the Collin County Criminal Justice Plan.

Most recently, Jim has served as the Chief Executive Officer for Hope's Door New Beginning Center, an organization offering intervention and prevention services to individuals and families affected by intimate partner and family violence. Jim is an active member of the Texas Council on Family Violence State Board of Directors; the Board of Directors of the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance; the Advisory Board of the Collin County Council on Domestic Violence; and the State Policy Development Board.

Now as Jim prepares to enjoy his much-deserved retirement, our entire Collin County community extends its most heartfelt thanks and best wishes.

WELCOMING ROBERT W. IULIANO

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Robert W. Iuliano as he is installed as the 15th President of Gettysburg College on September 28, 2019.

Mr. Iuliano is a tremendous addition to Gettysburg College, which has been educating students in Adams County since 1832. A leader in the academic community, he has two decades of experience in higher education.

Before assuming office in July, Mr. Iuliano served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Deputy to the President at Harvard University. In this position, he helped to shape the university's progress in important areas such as admissions, student life, athletics, governance, and finance.

Mr. Iuliano is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Virginia School of Law. After clerking for the Honorable Levin H. Campbell of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, he worked in the labor and litigation departments of the Boston law firm Choate, Hall & Stewart. Subsequently, he was a federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office in Boston.

As this new chapter of Gettysburg College history commences, I welcome Mr. Iuliano and his family to Pennsylvania's 13th District and look forward to working together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 10, 2019 during roll call no. 517, On Ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 548, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 205), Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1146), Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1941), Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.'' I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 518, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 548, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 205), Protecting and

Securing Florida's Coastline Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1146), Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1941), Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 519, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2852, Homebuyer Assistance Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING DR. LEWIS SQUIRES ON CHIROPRACTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Dr. Lewis Squires, a West Michigan resident who was recently named Chiropractor of the year by the Michigan Association of Chiropractors.

This prestigious award perfectly captures Dr. Squires' 41 years of leadership, service, and dedication to Communities in West Michigan and beyond. Through his outstanding work, Dr. Squires has improved the lives of countless Michiganders, reducing chronic pain, providing rehabilitative care, and encouraging a holistic approach to one's well-being.

Dr. Squires has dedicated his life to elevating the chiropractic profession, both directly to people and within the health care industry itself. He has played a crucial role in unifying chiropractors across Michigan, where his leadership earned him a spot on the Michigan Association of Chiropractors Board of Directors.

Receiving the Chiropractor of the Year award is the culmination of numerous recognitions that Dr. Squires has earned. Dr. Squires has also been presented with the Outstanding Alumni President Award from the Michigan Palmer International Alumni Association, the Public Service Award from the Mason County Central High Schools, and was named Mason County's Favorite Chiropractor from 2011–2016.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Lewis Squires on being named Chiropractor of the Year, and to thank him for his many years of service to Mason County and all West Michigan.

LILLIAN STEWART

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lillian Stewart and to extend my deepest condolences to her family upon her passing at the blessed age of 95. Ms. Stewart was a devoted mother, grandmother, and community activist. I am also privileged to have been able to call Ms. Stewart my friend.

Born in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, in 1923, Ms. Stewart was born the middle of five children. She spent her formative years in Washington, D.C., where she attended Garnet-Patterson Junior High School and Cardoza High School.

After graduating from high school, Ms. Stewart went on to continue her education, completing a post-graduate course in Cosmetology at Madame CJ Walker's College of Beauty Culture; a foreign language course at the University of the District of Columbia; and medical secretary training by the District of Columbia Medical Society; and earning a Montgomery Ward Consumer Education "Art of Interior Decorating Home Fashion Forum" certificate.

Ms. Stewart spent much of her professional career at Howard University Hospital, where she served in several support and junior management positions. She retired from the hospital as Hospital Utilization Review Coordinator. Upon retirement, Ms. Stewart dedicated her time to a range of community activities and small business ventures. She was active in the AARP Shepherd Park Chapter No. 2667, chair of the Southwest Advisory Council-Southwest Health Clinic and was a DC Public Notary. Ms. Stewart was also an outspoken activist. She actively protested the planned closure of DC General Hospital, located in a predominately African American neighborhood, in 2001.

As a mother, Ms. Stewart encouraged a pursuit of education in her children. She was privileged to live to witness her three children's professional accomplishments in communications, medicine, and photography. She also leaves behind six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

On a personal note, I had the honor of spending private time with Ms. Stewart thanks to her loving son Dwight who has been a dear friend for decades. I loved being with her. She brought me joy and made me laugh. Her colorful descriptions and deep insights were remarkable. I attended mass with her on several occasions and she demonstrated in words and deeds her belief in God, who she knew was all merciful and loving. I will deeply miss Ms. Stewart, but her indomitable spirit will endure forever.

Today, I join Ms. Stewart's family in celebrating her life and enduring legacy. May she rest in power and in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRED KELLER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on 9/20/19 because I was attending a funeral in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 1423, FAIR Act, and "yea" on Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 1423 offered by Rep. JORDAN (R–OH).

IN RECOGNITION OF HELEN BLACKWELL

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Helen Blackwell. Mrs. Blackwell was a tireless champion for conservative principles.

Mrs. Blackwell served as the Virginia State Chairman of Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum for 25 years. She was also the director of the Virginia Conservative Alliance and the Voting Integrity Project, of which she was the original chairman. A dedicated political activist, Mrs. Blackwell was elected chairman of the Arlington County, Virginia Republican Committee three times and was the Republican captain of the Lyon Village precinct in Arlington for 41 years. She served on the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia and was a Delegate from Virginia to the 2008 Republican National Convention.

Mrs. Blackwell was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She attended one year at Randolph-Macon Womans College and received her B.A. in History of Art and M.B.A. from Louisiana State University, where she was the cofounder and secretary of Students for Conservative Government. She was a volunteer docent for many years at the National Gallery of Art.

Since 1972, Mrs. Blackwell resided with her family in Arlington, Virginia. She was a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother who lived out her conservative principles every day of her life. Mrs. Blackwell was an active member of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church and the Eleanor Wilson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Her activism has left an indelible impact on the conservative movement, and she leaves a legacy of dedication, kindness, and boldness for years to come. Helen Blackwell will be dearly missed by many in this Chamber.

IN HONOR OF ERIC LARSON'S SERVICE TO THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, the success of any organization is entirely dependent upon its leadership. The San Diego County Farm Bureau (SDCFB) is a strong and effective advocate for our local agriculture industry, not only in San Diego County, but throughout California. At the helm for the past 23 years has been Eric Larson as its Executive Director. Eric recently announced his retirement from this position and I rise today and ask the House to join me in thanking him for his dedicated service and in congratulating him on this new chapter in his life.

Like many young people, Eric was first introduced to agriculture in school as a member of the Encinitas 4–H Club and San Dieguito High School Chapter of the Future Farmers of America. This would lead to a 48-year career that included everything from cut flower and nursery crop production to serving as General Manager of the California Floriculture Growers Association for 13 years to eventually leading the SDCFB.

Eric's standing in the agriculture industry grew with his positions on the Board of Directors with the Living Plant Growers Association, the San Diego County Flower and Plant Association, and the San Diego County Water Authority. Simultaneously, dedication to local

community was also an important aspect to Eric's character where he served the City of Carlsbad as a Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Planning Commissioner and twice being elected to the City Council.

For over 100 years, the SDCFB has successfully championed our local agriculture industry and Eric came to the Bureau in 1996 immediately continuing this legacy of leadership. During Eric's tenure as Executive Director, the SDCFB was honored as the California Farm Bureau "County of the Year" three times, successfully relocated and acquired income property, launched San Diego Grown magazine, established the San Diego Farm & Nursery Expo, kept members informed on all important issues, defeated two countywide ballot measures opposed by farmers, shielded farmers from the State of California's drought water use restrictions, created the San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group, initiated strategic planning to better serve members, and elevated the standing of local farmers and the Farm Bureau in the eyes of elected officials, regulatory agencies and the public as a whole.

Eric's strong reputation of mastering complex issues and helping create successful strategies toward achieving goals is well-earned. On many occasions, my office has used Eric as a resource to not only ensure we had a full understanding of matters affecting our agriculture community, but to also help us effectively communicate on a broad range of policy issues. Eric's retirement is well-deserved and, while he will definitely be missed, I am confident Eric's leadership and advocacy will continue in new and exciting ways.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 11, 2019 during roll call no. 520, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Gosar of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 3, as Modified, to H.R. 205, Protecting and Serving Florida's Coastline Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 521, On Passage of H.R. 205, Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act of 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 522, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Gosar of Arizona Part F Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 1941, Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 523, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Gosar of Arizona Part F Amendment No. 7 to H.R. 1941, Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 524, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1941, Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 525, On Passage of H.R. 1941, Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF EDDIE AGUERO

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the service Eddie Aguero has provided to the residents of the State of California and to our nation. Today, Mr. Aguero is being recognized for his twenty-five years of service to California Volunteers. I ask my colleagues to stand with me in celebration of his commitment to our community.

Made at Sacramento State and a U.S. Air Force veteran, Mr. Aguero has dedicated his life to service. Prior to his last twenty-five years with California Volunteers, he worked at the Sacramento Job Corps as Recreation Supervisor and Counselor to the young people attending for academic and technical training. He later served as the CalSERVE Program Manager for the California Conservation Corps. In this capacity, he implemented and managed grants. He also served in other capacities where he oversaw projects from start to finish for 150 corps members.

In 1994, Mr. Aguero began his career at California Volunteers, which was known as the California Commission at the time. During his time with the organization, he served as an Assistant Director of Programs, Training and Technical Assistance Director, Disability Coordinator, and Manager of Program Operations. Mr. Aguero has also been at the forefront of disaster release efforts. In response to Hurricane Katrina, he oversaw the deployment of AmeriCorps members and most recently for the Camp Fire in Paradise. Over the years, he has partnered closely with AmeriCorps programs, providing them with essential training and technical assistance, focused on developing the capacity of program associates to oversee programs, and much more. Mr. Aguero's efforts have not gone unnoticed. The legacy of his work garnered him the honor as one of twenty AmeriCorps Trailblazers in 2014.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Eddie Aguero for his successful career and his tireless advocacy for service programming and engaging Californians in service. Mr. Aguero is a true California treasure and a leader in our community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing him congratulations for the past three decades of service and best wishes for his continued service.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. JUANITA ABERNATHY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Mrs. Juanita Abernathy, a selfless and determined leader in the struggle for civil rights, whose direction and tireless engagement were integral to the progress of the movement. From the Montgomery bus boycott to the marches from Selma to Montgomery and on Washington, D.C., and beyond, Mrs. Abernathy played a key role in our nation's proudest instances of citizen activism. She fought boldly alongside her husband, the Reverend Dr. Ralph Abernathy, and their dear friends and fellow architects of the movement, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, to enact necessary and meaningful change, whose effects reverberated throughout our country. While many male leaders of the civil rights movement have rightfully become household names, the women whose struggles and sacrifice were equal and whose participation was necessary, have not enjoyed the same recognition. Mrs. Juanita Abernathy was a brilliant, courageous leader in her own right, and today we recognize her remarkable and distinct contributions.

Mrs. Abernathy was born on December 1, 1931 in Uniontown, Alabama, the youngest of Alexander and Ella Gilmore Jones' eight children. Mr. and Mrs. Jones, who made their living as dairy, beef and cotton farmers, did well for themselves, and were named the most successful farmers in the Black Belt by Tuskegee Institute in the 1940s. At an early age, Mrs. Abernathy was sent to live with her older sister to attend an African American boarding school, Selma University Prep School, from kindergarten through graduation. In the ninth grade, she met her future husband, the Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy, who wrote in his memoir that he was impressed by her audacious spirit and inherent dignity. Both were on display at the local grocery store when a white clerk refused to carry Mrs. Abernathy's groceries to her car. She replied that if he was unable to carry her groceries to the car, he should instead go ahead and return the groceries to the shelves. In 1952, after Mrs. Abernathy completed her B.S. in business education at Tennessee State University in Nashville, she and Dr. Abernathy were married.

Mrs. and Dr. Abernathy moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where she became a secretary for the Alabama chapter of the NAACP and taught high school courses on business education, while Dr. Abernathy served as pastor of the First Baptist Church on Ripley St. In 1954, the couple hosted a new pastor, who had been brought in to lead the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his wife, Coretta Scott King. In 1955, around the family dining room table, Mrs. Abernathy wrote the business plan for the Montgomery bus boycott, a plan which later served as a blueprint for the Civil Rights Movement. Meant to last only one day, the boycott went on for 381 days, eventually leading to the courts desegregating public transit and the country. In retaliation to the success of the Montgomery bus boycott, the Abernathy house was bombed while Dr. Abernathy was in Atlanta with Dr. King, establishing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Thankfully, Mrs. Abernathy, who was home with her oldest daughter Juandalynn, and pregnant with her youngest, Donzaleigh, was safe, though firefighters said that if the bomb had landed only a foot away, it would have exploded the house's main gas line. That same night Dr. Abernathy's church was bombed. Over the years, Mrs. Abernathy endured terror, harassment and unbridled hatred from white supremacists in her community and beyond; and yet, in the face of unimaginable threats, Mrs. Abernathy maintained her innate dignity and bravery.

In 1961, Mrs. Abernathy and her husband moved to Atlanta, Georgia where she worked closely with the Kings to integrate Atlanta's public schools. Upon learning that Spring Street Elementary School was the school favored by the children of Georgia Tech professors, Mrs. Abernathy sent her children Donzaleigh, Juandalynn and their late brother Ralph Abernathy III, who became some of the first children to integrate, alongside two of the Kings' children. Mrs. Abernathy took great pride in her children's cultural and classical education, bringing them to Europe and, in Atlanta, to attend the opera. At this same time, understanding the inextricable link between racial and economic inequality in this country, Mrs. Abernathy fought to establish a National Food Stamp Program for low-income families and a National Free Meal Program for public school children.

Mrs. Juanita Abernathy was perhaps the last living member of Dr. King's inner circle, but her legacy supersedes even such prominent relationships. In addition to her work during the Civil Rights Movement, Mrs. Abernathy has travelled around the world three times on peace missions, served on the board of MARTA for over a decade and became a national sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics, ranking second in the nation in recruitment. A true servant leader, Mrs. Abernathy's brilliant mind, full heart and resilient spirit should serve as a reminder to us all of what constitutes a life well lived. When she sat at President Barack Obama's inauguration, it was in a place of honor, directly behind former President Bill Clinton.

On a personal note, I was honored to get to know Mrs. Abernathy during her many pilgrimages to my hometown of Selma, Alabama for the annual commemorations of ''Bloody Sunday'' and the March from Selma to Montgomery. She was a powerful force for change and a proud product of Alabama's Black Belt, who passionately protected the legacy of her husband and their lifelong work to advance civil rights in this nation. Mrs. Abernathy graciously encouraged me to run for Congress and honored me with her presence in Selma on election night when I won in November 2010. I saw in her face that night the pride she felt witnessing the election of Alabama's first black Congresswoman. It was a time that had come because of her personal courage and sacrifices to pave the way for future generations of black children like me to succeed. I know there comes great responsibility in standing on her broad shoulders and I seek to honor that privilege every day in my efforts to protect and further the progress made and legacy of the Freedom Fighters for Justice like Mrs. Juanita Abernathy. To her family, I thank them for sharing their parents with the world. Their mother's passion, courage and determination will always live on in the hearts and actions of those she touched.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and honor to Alabama native Mrs. Juanita Jones Abernathy on the passing of this Civil Rights icon and true American heroine whose tremendous efforts helped this nation on its path towards a more perfect union.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The Joint Base, and the tens of thousands based there who serve our country, is a critical part of the fabric of our community, economy, and national security.

Bases McGuire, Dix and Lakehurst have stood as a unified base for a decade, but each has a rich history. Fort Dix was established during World War I, and trained soldiers that helped liberate Europe During World War II. McGuire Air Force Base was a hub for operations during the Cold War, and Lakehurst Naval Air Station was home to some of the Navy's most historic missions.

Today, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst continues in that proud tradition of serving at the vanguard of our nation's defense. The servicemen and women training and operating at the Joint Base continue to be deployed overseas to project American security and protect America's interests.

Furthermore, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is an absolutely critical part of New Jersey's economy. The Joint Base is one of our state's largest employers and generates billions in income to support our communities. It is also a point of incredible pride for the people of Burlington and Ocean Counties.

I appreciate the work that those stationed at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst do on a daily basis to keep our nation safe and support families living in New Jersey. On behalf of my neighbors in Burlington and Ocean Counties, I congratulate our base leadership and servicemembers for a successful ten years serving our community and country, and look forward to continuing that work in the years and decades to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HARRINGTON LIBRARY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Harrington Public Library in Plano, Texas. The first library to ever call Plano Home, Harrington opened its doors in 1969.

With a collection of over 15,000 volumes, Harrington offers our community a multitude of classes ranging from languages, Test prep, money management, and much more.

I would like to thank the library, their staff, and volunteers for all of their hard work in cultivating a strong appreciation for literacy, learning, and imagination.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Harrington Public Library on 50 years of serving the city of Plano.

TRIBUTE HONORING SHAWN B. HARLEY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Shawn B. Harley upon his retirement as Meteorologist-In-Charge after dedicating 31 years to the National Weather Service, including more than two decades in Jackson, Kentucky.

Meteorologists provide the first line of defense for residents to prepare and seek safe shelter during severe weather events. When a violent and historic storm produced a deadly tornado outbreak in Eastern Kentucky on March 2, 2012, the Jackson Weather Service provided the most accurate and vital storm tracking information and urgent local warnings that undoubtedly saved countless lives. That fateful day was just one of many that required fast, accurate and minute-by-minute tracking of the meteorological team in Jackson, led by Shawn Harley. I want to commend Shawn for dedicating his time and talents to help protect the people of Southern and Eastern Kentucky for 23 years.

In addition to his career in meteorology, Shawn has extended his heart of service by volunteering with the Red Cross and becoming a board member. He also works with the youth group at the First United Church of Jackson and dedicates time to help the Holy Cross Catholic Church. Shawn and his wife, Susan, have also cooked and served hearty meals for the Haven House, a homeless shelter in Breathitt County, and assisted with projects for local senior citizens. It is clear that Shawn's courage of conviction has impacted families and individuals who are most-in-need, and I applaud his spirit of philanthropy and goodwill for the people of our region.

Finally, I want to congratulate Shawn on his retirement from the National Weather Service, including assignments that have spanned across Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. My wife, Cynthia, and I wish Shawn and his family a retirement filled with many years of joy and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 12, 2019 during roll call no. 526, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Young of Alaska Part D Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 1146, Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.'' I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 527, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Gosar of Arizona Part D Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 1146, Artic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.'' I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 528, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Gosar of Arizona Part D Amendment No. 3, as Modified to H.R. 1146, Artic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act. Had I been

present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 529, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1146, Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "nay." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 530, On Passage of H.R. 1146, Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNITION OF KAZIMIR PULASKI

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a Polish and American hero: Kazimir Pulaski. Kazimir Pulaski was born in Warsaw, Poland on March 6, 1745, to Polish nobility. At only 15 years old, he joined the Polish resistance fighting against the Russian and Prussian forces that were threatening Poland's freedom. Forced into exile by the Russians, he left Poland for France and met Benjamin Franklin who was on a diplomatic mission in Paris securing support for the colonies in their revolutionary war against the British. Benjamin Franklin's description of how the colonies were rising up, fighting to be a new and independent nation, inspired Pulaski, and he volunteered to go fight alongside the colonists. When in America, Pulaski distinguished himself as a courageous fighter and military tactician. Congress appointed him Brigadier-General in charge of mounted brigades, and that lead to Congress, in 1778, establishing the Cavalry and appointing General Pulaski as its leader. General Pulaski was known as a strong taskmaster, asking much of his men, and yet was also known to use his own personal money to ensure they had the finest equipment when Congress was slow in providing funds. On October 9, 1779, General Pulaski was mortally wounded while riding into the Battle of Savannah, hit by cannon fire. Please join me in honoring General Pulaski, who came to the United States with one purpose, to fight for our cause of independence, and who died on foreign soil, defending not just our liberty and justice, but also the greater principle of freedom.

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for National Recovery Month.

Every September, we recognize the importance of increasing awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders as well as to honoring the individuals, over 23 million in the United States, who are in recovery.

My experience as the first registered nurse elected to Congress and a former chief psychiatric nurse allows me to examine our nation's healthcare priorities with experience and foresight. We must ensure that our families, communities, and health care systems have the necessary resources and support to effectively address mental health and substance use in our country.

There is much to be done to improve our country's access to treatment services for mental and substance use disorders, and I am determined to continue my work with my colleagues in Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support National Recovery Month.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY RENAMING BILL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today, our nation celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the opening of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. On this anniversary, I am introducing legislation to add "Great Lakes" to the name of the Seaway.

This new name, the "Great Lakes" Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation will now reflect the Seaway's enormous role for connecting commerce, promoting economic development, and protecting national security across the nation.

In 1959, Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and U.S. President Eisenhower presided over festivities that marked the opening of the modern Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway.

Sixty years later, the role of the seaway is just as crucial. A 2018 analysis by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation found that commercial navigation that transits the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario sustains 92,661 jobs in the US, Canada, and supports almost $13 billion in economic activity.

It is imperative that the United States continues to support the mission of the Seaway and ensure that it receives the recognition it deserves.

RECOGNIZING BAYLOR SCOTT & WHITE THE HEART HOSPITAL—PLANO

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Baylor Scott & White The Heart Hospital for being named the Physician Hospital of the Year by Physician Hospitals of America.

Located in Plano, Texas, The Heart Hospital ranks as one of the top performing cardiac surgical programs in the entire nation and provides Collin County with the highest level of cardiac health care.

Since opening in 2007, The Heart Hospital has worked day in and day out to save lives and ensure compassion to everyone who enters their system. Our community is proud to be the home of this state-of-the-art facility and its many astounding health care providers and staff.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Heart Hospital—Plano on their recent success and thanking them for all of their hard work.

PUERTO RICO'S MEDICAID PROGRAM

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, on September 19 the House passed a Continuing Resolution to give us additional time to agree on a funding package for Fiscal Year 2020 without the disruption caused by a government shutdown.

I am grateful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for including a provision to extend the application of the 100 percent FMAP to Puerto Rico's Medicaid Program for the next 7 weeks. We know that action was taken in recognition of the unfairness in which the Americans who live in the territories are treated by under our Medicaid program.

Federal spending for Puerto Rico's Medicaid program will likely reach the $374 million-dollar cap before the expiration of the Continuing Resolution. Because of this, we must act quickly to approve H.R. 2328, which aligns the statutory spending cap with the actual program expenditures, in order to provide a more long-term solution for such an important federal program for our fellow Americans who depend on it.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5635–S5672

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2531–2542, S.J. Res. 55, and S. Res. 324–329. **Pages S5663–64**

Measures Reported:

S. 903, to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron source, make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–114)

S. 1201, to amend the fossil energy research and development provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to enhance fossil fuel technology. (S. Rept. No. 116–115)

S. 1706, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities. (S. Rept. No. 116–116) **Page S5663**

Measures Passed:

Whistleblower Complaint: Senate agreed to S. Res. 325, expressing the sense of the Senate that the whistleblower complaint received on August 12, 2019, by the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community should be transmitted immediately to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives. **Pages S5649, S5666**

Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act: Senate passed H.R. 1590, to require an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel. **Page S5669**

DHS Cyber Hunt and Incident Response Teams Act: Senate passed H.R. 1158, to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S5669**

McConnell (for Hassan) Amendment No. 941, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5669**

Gold Star Families Remembrance Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 313, designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2019, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week", and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5669**

AmeriCorps 25th anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 326, recognizing the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps. **Page S5666**

National Falls Prevention Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 327, designating September 23, 2019, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults. **Pages S5666–67**

Honoring Marca Bristo: Senate agreed to S. Res. 328, honoring the life, legacy, and achievements of Marca Bristo. **Page S5667**

National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 329, designating September 2019 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month". **Page S5667**

National Defense Legislation—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, S.J. Res. 54, relating to a national emergency declared by the President of February 15, 2019, be discharged from the Committee on Armed Services, and Senate begin consideration of the joint resolution; that the time until 12:15 p.m. be equally divided between the Leaders, or their designees, on the joint resolution, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on the joint resolution; and that following disposition of the joint resolution, Senate begin consideration of resolutions to instruct conferees to be submitted pursuant to the order of Thursday, September 18, 2019; that they be made pending and reported by number with concurrent consideration until 3:45 p.m., equally divided between the Leaders, or their designees, and that at 3:45 p.m., Senate vote on the resolutions in the order listed with two minutes of debate equally divided prior to the votes. **Pages S5668–69**

Hyten Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gen. John E. Hyten for

appointment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility in accordance with title 10, U.S.C., sections 154 and 601: to be General. **Page S5659**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, September 26, 2019. **Page S5659**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5659**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 88 yeas to 6 nays (Vote No. EX. 298), Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S5643, S5643–49, S5672**

By 56 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. EX. 299), Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu. **Pages S5636–42, S5649–50, S5672**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 295), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5642**

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 300), Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior. **Pages S5642, S5650, S5672**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 296), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5642**

By 68 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. EX. 301), David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2025. **Pages S5642–43, S5650–51, S5672**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 66 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. 297), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S5642–43**

Messages from the House: **Page S5663**

Measures Referred: **Page S5663**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S5663**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5664–66**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5661–63**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5667–68**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5668**

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—301) **Pages S5642, S5643, S5648–49, S5650, S5651**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:55 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5670.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

IMPROVING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation and Space concluded a hearing to examine improving air traffic control for the American people, focusing on examining the current system, after receiving testimony from Mark Baker, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Frederick, Maryland; and Ed Bolen, National Business Aviation Association, Joe DePete, Air Line Pilots Association, International, Trish Gilbert, National Air Traffic Controllers Association, AFL–CIO, and Sharon Pinkerton, Airlines for America, all of Washington, D.C.

SYRIA STUDY GROUP REPORT

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism

concluded a hearing to examine key findings from the Syria Study Group report, after receiving testimony from Michael Singh, and Dana Stroul, both of the Syria Study Group, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Eugene Scalia, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Labor.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY MARKETS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine competition in digital technology markets, focusing on acquisitions of nascent or potential competitors by digital platforms, after receiving testimony from Bruce Hoffman, Director of the Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission; Diana Moss, American Antitrust Institute, Washington, D.C.; John M. Yun, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, Arlington, Virginia; and Patricia Nakache, Trinity Ventures, Menlo Park, California.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 4457–4483; and 14 resolutions, H. Res. 575–588 were introduced. **Pages H7900–02**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7903–05**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2781, 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 (H. Rept. 116–214);

H.R. 2296, to require reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–215);

H.R. 728, 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 (H. Rept. 116–216); and

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 (H. Rept. 116–217). **Page H7900**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:22 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H7871**

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. Duffy, the whole number of the House is 434. **Page H7871**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:21 p.m. and reconvened at 3:01 p.m. **Page H7873**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

First Responders Passport Act of 2019: H.R. 2229, amended, to waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster; **Pages H7874–75**

Southeast Asia Strategy Act: H.R. 1632, amended, to require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); **Pages H7875–77**

Burma Political Prisoners Assistance Act: H.R. 2327, amended, 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; **Pages H7877–78**

Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability Act of 2019: H.R. 3190, amended, to authorize humanitarian assistance and impose sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 394 yeas to 21 nays, Roll No. 541; **Pages H7878–85, H7888–89**

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: H. Res. 127, amended, 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; and **Pages H7885–86**

Reaffirming the importance of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons: H. Res. 444, amended, reaffirming the importance of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons. **Pages H7886–88**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:50 p.m. and reconvened at 6:20 p.m. **Page H7888**

Senate Referral: S. 1340 was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. **Page H7898**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H7873.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H7888–89. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Committee Meetings

OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION: WALL STREET'S COP ON THE BEAT

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Securities and Exchange Commission: Wall Street's Cop on the Beat''. Testimony was heard from the following U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission officials: Jay Clayton, Chairman; Robert J. Jackson, Jr., Commissioner; Hester M. Peirce, Commissioner; Elad L. Roisman, Commissioner; and Allison Herren Lee, Commissioner.

EXAMINING THE RACIAL AND GENDER WEALTH GAP IN AMERICA

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Racial and Gender Wealth Gap in America''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MUSLIM BAN

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs held a joint hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Trump Administration's Muslim Ban''. Testimony was heard from Edward Ramotowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Visa Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State; Elizabeth Neumann, Assistant Secretary for Threat Prevention and Security Policy, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security; Todd Hoffman, Executive Director, Admissions and Passenger Programs, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS AFTER SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled ''Congressional Authority to Protect Voting Rights After Shelby County v. Holder''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTING TAXPAYERS AND ELIMINATING INDUSTRY GIVEAWAYS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled ''Fossil Fuel Development: Protecting Taxpayers and Eliminating Industry Giveaways''. Testimony was heard from Representatives DeGette, Cartwright, and McAdams; Frank Rusco, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; John Putnam, Director of Environmental Programs, Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on H.R. 925, the ''NAWCA''; H.R. 1747, the ''National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act''; H.R. 2748, the ''Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act''; H.R. 2854, the ''Protect Our Refuges Act of 2019''; H.R. 2918, the ''Extinction Prevention Act''; H.R. 2956, to provide for the establishment of the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge; H.R. 3399, to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California in the program, and for other purposes; H.R. 4340,

the "SALAMANDER Act of 2019"; H.R. 4341, the "Critically Endangered Animals Act of 2019"; and H.R. 4348, the "PAW and FIN Conservation Act of 2019". Testimony was heard from Chairman Grijalva, and Representatives Thompson of California, Harder, Cartwright, Wittman, and Huffman; Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director for Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; David G. Smith, Administrator, Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife; and public witnesses.

DON'T VAPE: EXAMINING THE OUTBREAK OF LUNG DISEASE AND CDC'S URGENT WARNING NOT TO USE E-CIGARETTES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy held a hearing entitled "Don't Vape: Examining the Outbreak of Lung Disease and CDC's Urgent Warning Not to Use E-Cigarettes". Testimony was heard from Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Ngozi O. Ezike, Director, Illinois Department of Public Health; and public witnesses.

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

Committee on Rules: Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process held a hearing entitled "Building Resilient Communities for America's Future [Original Jurisdiction Hearing]". Testimony was heard from Bill Johnson, Director of Emergency Management, Palm Beach County, Florida; and public witnesses.

HOMELAND SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT; U.S. BORDER PATROL MEDICAL SCREENING STANDARDS ACT; 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

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2203, the "Homeland Security Improvement Act" [Further consideration]; H.R. 3525, the "U.S. Border Patrol Medical Screening Standards Act"; and 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. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2203, the "Homeland Security Improvement Act", H.R. 3525, the "U.S. Border Patrol Medical Screening Standards Act", and H. Res. 576, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the whistle blower complaint of August 12, 2019, made to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2203, the "Homeland Security Improvement Act", under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–27, modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3525, the "U.S. Border Patrol Medical Screening Standards Act", under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–33 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides for consideration of 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, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of September 26, 2019, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules and that the Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section. The rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from September 30, 2019, through October 14, 2019: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. The rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair

for the duration of the period addressed by section 5. The rule provides that each day during the period addressed by section 5 shall not constitute a calendar day for the purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution; shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII; shall not constitute a calendar or legislative day for purposes of clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII; and shall not constitute a legislative day for the purposes of clause 7 of rule XV. Testimony was heard from Chairman Schiff, and Representatives Wenstrup and Lesko.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled ''Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work''. Testimony was heard from Arthur Lupia, Assistant Director, Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, National Science Foundation; and public witnesses.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUTER RAILROADS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled ''Challenges and Opportunities for Commuter Railroads''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine perspectives on the livestock and poultry sectors, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine facilitating faster payments in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine fishery failures, focusing on improving the disaster declaration and relief process, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider S. 334, to authorize the construction of the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System and study of the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System in the States of Montana and North Dakota, S. 607, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, S. 860, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado, S. 990, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the implementation of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program First Increment Extension for threatened and endangered species in the Central and Lower Platte River Basin, S. 1570, to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, S. 1602, to amend the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 to establish a research, development, and demonstration program for grid-scale energy storage systems, S. 1751, to amend the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to authorize pumped storage hydropower development utilizing multiple Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs, S. 1758, to extend a repayment contract relating to the Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District and to authorize the District to develop an excess capacity contract to offset repayment costs, S. 1821, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to provide for research on, and the development and deployment of, marine energy, S. 1882, to make available the continued use of Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program project use power by the Kinsey Irrigation Company and the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District, S. 1931, to require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, S. 2044, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to establish an Aging Infrastructure Account, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to provide additional funds under that Act, to establish a review of flood control rule curves pilot project within the Bureau of Reclamation, S. 2094 and H.R. 2114, bills to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide Federal financial assistance to States to implement, review, and revise State energy security plans, S. 2095, to provide for certain programs and developments in the Department of Energy concerning the cybersecurity and vulnerabilities of, and physical threat to, the electric grid, S. 2137, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, S. 2300, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to establish a program to incentivize innovation and to enhance the industrial competitiveness of the United States by developing technologies to reduce emissions of nonpower industrial sectors, S. 2332, to provide for the modernization of the electric grid, S. 2333, to provide for enhanced energy grid security, S. 2334, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish the 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board, S. 2335, to accelerate smart building development, and H.R. 1420, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to promote energy efficiency via information and computing technologies, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider S. 2260, to provide for the improvement of domestic infrastructure in order to prevent marine debris, S. 2099, to redesignate the Sullys Hill National Game Preserve in the State of North Dakota as the White Horse Hill National Game Preserve, the nominations of Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department

of the Interior, and Katherine Andrea Lemos, of California, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, and to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, and 8 General Services Administration resolutions, 9:15 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine United States policy in Mexico and Central America, focusing on ensuring effective policies to address the crisis at the border, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1590, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, S. 1678, to express United States support for Taiwan's diplomatic alliances around the world, S. 1838, to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, S. 2372, to enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, S. 2503, to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, S. Res. 183, reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, S. Res. 236, reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms, S. Res. 277, remembering the 25th Anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the 85 victims of the attacks, S. Res. 318, to support the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Sixth Replenishment, the nominations of Adam Seth Boehler, of Louisiana, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, and Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Romania, Department of State, a routine list in the Foreign Service, and other pending calendar business, 1:30 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine countering domestic terrorism, focusing on the evolving threat, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Jodi W. Dishman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Sarah E. Pitlyk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Daniel Mack Traynor, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine toxic exposure, focusing on examining the Department of Veterans Affairs's presumptive disability decision-making process, 10 a.m., SR–418.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine promoting healthy aging, focusing on living your best life long into your golden years, 10:15 a.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''International Food Assistance Programs at USDA and USAID'', 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled ''Federal Trade Commission: Protecting Consumers and Fostering Competition in the 21st Century'', 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Investments in Medical Research at Five Institutes and Centers of the National Institutes of Health'', 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Oversight Hearing: FAA Aviation Certification'', 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled ''Status of the B61–12 Life Extension and W88 Alteration-370 Programs'', 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''America's Infrastructure: Today's Gaps, Tomorrow's Opportunities, and the Need for Federal Investment'', 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2474, the ''Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Sounding the Alarm: The Public Health Threats of E–Cigarettes'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Making Prescription Drugs More Affordable: Legislation to Negotiate a Better Deal for Americans'', 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, hearing entitled ''Promoting Financial Stability: Assessing Threats to the U.S. Financial System'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, hearing entitled ''Protecting Seniors: A Review of the FHA's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Program'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 543, recognizing Hong Kong's bilateral relationship with the United States, condemning the interference of the People's Republic of China in Hong Kong's affairs, and supporting the people of Hong Kong's right to protest; H.R. 3289, the ''Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019''; H. Res. 517, supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and its Sixth Replenishment; H. Res. 387, condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict; H. Res. 552, calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence of wrongdoing or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan; H.R. 4270,

the ''PROTECT Hong Kong Act''; and H. Res. 521, commending the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern over actions by the Government of the People's Republic of China in response to a request from the United States Government to the Government of Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., executive, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Assessing the Impact of Cutting Foreign Assistance to Central America'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R.1975, the ''Cybersecurity Advisory Committee Authorization Act of 2019''; H.R.4432, the ''Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Drones and Emerging Threats Act'', 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Protecting America from Assault Weapons'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 729, the ''Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act''; H.R. 925, the ''North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act''; H.R. 1472, to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park; H.R. 1487, the ''Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act''; H.R. 1492, the ''Yucca House National Monument Boundary Revision Act''; H.R. 1747, the ''National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act''; H.R. 2185, the ''District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2019''; H.R. 3115, the ''Living Shorelines Act of 2019''; H.R. 3541, the ''Coastal State Climate Preparedness Act of 2019''; and H.R. 3596, the ''Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing entitled ''Advance Appropriations: Protecting Tribal Communities from the Effects of a Government Shutdown'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled ''NextGen Feds: Recruiting the Next Generation of Public Servants'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4373, the ''Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019''; H.R. 4372, the ''MSI STEM Achievement Act''; and H.R. 4355, the ''Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4406, the ''Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2019''; H.R. 4405, the ''Women's Business Centers Improvements Act of 2019''; H.R. 4407, the ''SCORE for Small Business Act of 2019''; H.R. 4387, to establish Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled ''Landlord and Tenant: The Trump Administration's Oversight of the Trump International Hotel Lease'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''Coast Guard and Port Infrastructure: Built to Last?'', 2 p.m., 2253 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''MISSION Critical: Care in the Community Update'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 25

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 10:30 a.m.), Senate will begin consideration of S.J. Res. 54, relating to a national emergency declared by the President of February 15, 2019, and vote on passage thereon at 12:15 p.m.

Following disposition of S.J. Res. 54, Senate will begin consideration of resolutions to instruct conferees related to S. 1790, National Defense Authorization Act, and vote on the resolutions at 3:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 25

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

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