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

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 21, 2019.
I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY GOMEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

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

CONSEQUENCES OF ABANDONING OUR KURDISH ALLIES
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sadness and profound concern over President Trump’s inexplicable abandonment of our Kurdish allies in Syria who sacrificed more than 11,000 of their sons and daughters in our joint fight against ISIS.

The President’s impulsive and abrupt decision not only betrays our allies, but it betrays our values. It immediately compromises our national security, dramatically undermines American credibility, and will have negative strategic implications for generations to come.

It is not just me saying this. These are the words of Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL: “Withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria is a grave strategic mistake. It will leave the American people and homeland less safe, embolden our enemies, and weaken important alliances.”

While we should all welcome the announced 5-day pause in the Turkish assault, we should not be celebrating. Turkey has not recognized the ceasefire but, rather, just a pause in fighting. Reports from the area indicate that Turkish-affiliated forces are still attacking, and the pause is scheduled to end tomorrow. We can likely expect the carnage to then resume with a new ferocity.

Regarding the deal with Turkey, The Wall Street Journal this morning notes: “Critics have said the agreement was a wholesale concession to Ankara, giving it control of an area in Syria it has coveted for years and freeing it from U.S. sanctions in return for pausing an offensive it had no international backing for. While President Trump hailed the pact as a diplomatic victory, U.S.-allied Kurds have likened it to a surrender on their part.”

Unsurprisingly, our Kurdish allies have now aligned their forces with Assad’s army. Assad has, thus, instantaneously made significant territorial gains in just a few days, effectively controlling lands that the U.S. and allied forces have spent years seeking to defend.

So, let’s review.

In the weeks following the President’s decision to walk away from our allies, Turkish forces and allied fighters, many of which are Islamic extremists, have crossed the border into Syria. U.S. forces have abandoned forward operating bases and then sent U.S. planes to destroy those bases. But before those bases could be destroyed, celebrating Russian troops posted selfies in some of these former American strongholds.

Turkey is not just targeting Kurdish forces, they are attacking entire towns, and civilians are literally being murdered in the streets.

The expansion of control by Russian and Syrian forces is not just a win for those countries in Syria but also threatens our allies in the region—in particular, Israel.

Iran’s sense of emboldenment will likely lead it to expand programs to deliver advanced weapons to Hezbollah, increasing the already significant threat to Israel—only now from Syria as well as Lebanon.

As already noted, Assad has consolidated his power over virtually all of Syria at no political or military cost. Finally, many ISIS prisoners have escaped to join the fight, and thousands more are at risk of release, giving ISIS a greater ability to reorganize.

One more thing: Today, there are reports that President Erdogan now wants Turkey to acquire nuclear weapons. The last thing this region needs is a nuclear arms race.

Here is the bottom line. Last Thursday, the American Vice President and Secretary of State stood at a podium and announced the administration’s effective capitulation and surrender. Turkey will complete its ethnic cleansing, and the U.S. will lift all sanctions.

Assad has full control in Syria, under the tutelage of his Russian and Iranian masters.

Turkey, Syria, Russia, and Iran are the winners. The Kurds are, once more, on the losing end.

The United States, under President Trump, is sadly diminished—so much so that Syrians are throwing rotten food at retreating U.S. troops.
The administration’s policies are tragic for reasons beyond the human suffering it has unleashed. They weaken our national security, undermine our fight against terrorism, and diminish American credibility.

We are so much better than this.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to speak out and condemn the actions of this administration. Congress must pass sanctions on Turkey and seek to compel Erdogan to stop Turkey’s assault on the Kurds. We must let the administration know we will not live up to our Nation’s values, to stand by our allies, and to confront our enemies.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN MCArThUR

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

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great constituent and also a great friend. His name is John McArthur. He passed away recently at the age of 96.

John was 21 years old in 1944 when his father died, tragically, of a heart attack, meaning John was tasked to take over the family farming and ranching business. In fact, if the name “McArthur” sounds familiar to those of us from northern California, that is because his family founded the town of McArthur, California, where he lived much of his life.

In the years since, John has helped establish many important staples of his community, including the McArthur Volunteer Fire Department, the McArthur Firemen’s Carnival, the Fall River-Big Valley Cattlemen’s Association, and the Junior Livestock Sale. He and Shirley were very involved in the fair each year and the events that went on there.

John actually introduced new crops to the Fall River Valley by providing the first 10 acres for growing strawberries in McArthur. Lassen Canyon Nursery, among others, remains a thriving business operation more than 60 years later.

John and his business partners also tried their hand at planting and growing potatoes. I am a rice grower in real life, so we had a little bit of a rivalry for the starches that go on your plate and a little fun with that.

While they were successful, they ran into trouble when it actually came to harvesting the crop. Through that failed endeavor, he established that the land was right for growing potatoes and was soon able to lease it to successful potato growers for many years thereafter.

On a personal level, John and his wife, Shirley, were known for their welcoming nature. Their home was always open for cocktail hours or just hanging out at the McArthur residence overlooking the valley. They have an amazing view off their back deck, looking over the valley there.

The events became so frequent that John and Shirley thought maybe it would be better to cut down on the Old Crow a little bit and slip some ice cream in and visit with them. John always had a smile, a laugh, a good story, and a very welcoming nature about him. It is one of the fortunate parts of being able to serve in an elected capacity these years I have at the State level and now here in the Congress.

His life spanned nearly a century. He outlived most of his childhood friends, but his personality, coupled with his generosity, kindness, and involvement in his community, ensured that he had no shortage of new friends.

During his time on this Earth, he has been a witness to a lot of change. He watched as California’s population grew from 4 million to over 40 million today. He saw all the fighting for agriculture, adding to our water supply, and sticking up for rural values.

Ask anyone in McArthur, John was clearly a pillar of the community that bears his last name. He helped to establish it early on and continued to help grow it through the years until his last days.

As a friend, I will miss him. I know he is sorely missed up there. Blessings to Shirley and blessings to all of the McArthur family in that great community, one that I am always proud to represent and very happy when I get a chance to visit and hang out with folks.

Indeed, he is a pillar, and they don’t make them like John McArthur anymore. Let’s hope his legacy helps spawn new generations of people with that same attitude, that same strength, that same can-do that has made America strong, made his community strong, and made the fiber of northern California the great place it is.

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 0’clock and 10 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 (Ms. Garcia of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day. At the beginning of a new workweek, we ask Your blessing on the Members of this people’s House.

May they be led by Your spirit in the discernment they undertake amid the pressures of contentious deliberations. All through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all peoples and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today, President Trump held a press conference and referred to the Emoluments Clause in the Constitution as the “phony Emoluments Clause.”

I take umbrage at his remarks. The Emoluments Clause was first put in the Articles of Confederation, and before that, 100 years earlier, the Dutch put it in their documents to protect from foreign influence.

The Emoluments Clause is not phony.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today, President Trump held a press conference and referred to the Emoluments Clause in the Constitution as the “phony Emoluments Clause.”

I take umbrage at his remarks. The Emoluments Clause was first put in the Articles of Confederation, and before that, 100 years earlier, the Dutch put it in their documents to protect from foreign influence.

It was said at the Constitutional Convention that a violation of the Emoluments Clause would result in impeachment. No wonder President Trump thinks it is phony.

There is nothing phony about the Emoluments Clause, the impeachment clause, Article I, Congress’ powers, or separation of the three branches of government.

Madam Speaker, I respect the Constitution, and I wish the President would as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.
USMCA IS A WIN FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, this month marks 1 year since the Trump administration negotiated the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. USMCA is undoubtedly a win for Missourians and for all Americans. The agreement will bring 176,000 new jobs and will spur $63 billion in new economic activity.

Beneficiaries of USMCA will be felt across diverse industries, including many of our manufacturing industries, agriculture, and small businesses, while also supporting technology and innovation.

But month after month, this Congress has been subject to missed opportunities for our producers and consumers as we have refused the chance to vote on the USMCA. This needs to change.

Instead of House leaders squandering precious legislative time bringing up impeachment inquiries, they should be bringing up USMCA for a vote.

Let us hope that we get this opportunity soon. That would be a positive step toward bringing up USMCA for a vote.

HONORING THE LIFE OF IAN COCHRAN

(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, I look forward to welcoming Vice President MIKE PENCE to Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, on Wednesday.

Agriculture and manufacturing are vital to Wisconsin and our Nation. However, unfair trade practices are hindering our manufacturers’ ability to create jobs.

USMCA is an important and improved trade deal between Canada, Mexico, and the United States. That is why passing USMCA is important.

USMCA helps small family farms. USMCA supports American workers. USMCA is a win for Wisconsin.

Vice President MIKE PENCE and I will be in Pleasant Prairie to push USMCA across the finish line. The Trump administration has done a great job negotiating this trade deal. It is now up to Congress to pass USMCA. Let’s get this done.

Madam Speaker, bring USMCA to a vote. Wisconsin workers and farmers are depending on it.

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, October 21, 2019

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1(k) of House Resolution 895, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, and section 104(c) of House Resolution 6, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, I transmit to you notification that the following individuals each have signed an agreement not to be a candidate for the office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress for purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 until at least 3 years after they are no longer a member of the board or staff of the Office of Congressional Ethics:

On April 29, 2019, to the records of the House.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

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, October 18, 2019

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1(k) of House Resolution 886, One Hundred Tenth Congress, and section 104(c) of House Resolution 6, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, I transmit to you notification that the following individuals each have signed an agreement not to be a candidate for the office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress for purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 until at least 3 years after they are no longer a member of the board or staff of the Office of Congressional Ethics:

On April 29, 2019, to the records of the House.

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 3:30 p.m. today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore RASKIN on Friday, October 18, 2019:

S. 1196, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1715 Linnerud Drive in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, as the “Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building”.

ALLOW ALL MEMBERS ACCESS TO IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

(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 today to highlight the failure of House Democrats to run a fair and transparent process, ostensibly toward an impeachment.

We have yet to hold a vote on whether or not to actually open up a true impeachment inquiry. Instead, Democratic leaders have simply decided it for themselves. That goes against all precedent established in this Chamber and under the Constitution.

Last week, I attempted to attend one of their closed-door impeachment hearings, or to simply view testimony transcripts, but was promptly asked to leave.

This is exactly what a partisan, secretive, and unfair process looks like. Why would Members not have access to an unclassified hearing and not be able to view materials that should be public, as they normally would? What is there to hide?

Last week, the Republican whip, STEVE SCALISE, filed a rule change to allow all Members of Congress access to documents related to this impeachment show and the documents associated with it.

I am fully supportive of this rule change. We will vote on this measure soon, and now my colleagues from the other side of the aisle must show the American people whether or not they support giving them the transparency they deserve in this process.

PROCEEDINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 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 October 21, 2019, at 10:19 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2258.

That the Senate passed S. 2635.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1396.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
CHERYL L. JOHNSON.
Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

\[1529\]

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUÉLLAR) at 3 o’clock and 29 minutes 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.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4006) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the small business development centers program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4006

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 “Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. USE OF AUTHORIZED ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 49 as section 50; and

(2) by inserting after section 48 the following new section:

“SEC. 49. USE OF AUTHORIZED ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

“(a) EXPANDED SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator shall only deliver entrepreneurial development services, entrepreneurial education, and support for the development and maintenance of the Regional Innovation Clusters Program (or similar business training services) through a program authorized under—

“(A) section 7(j), 7(m), 8(a), 8(b)(1), 21, 22, 29, 32 of this Act; or

“(B) sections 358 or 389 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to services provided to assist small business concerns owned by an Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section 8(a)(13)).

“(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning on the first day of October following the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator shall annually submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on any data collection activities related to the Small Business Development Center Program.”.

(c) WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND STUDY.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall establish a group to be known as the “Data Collection Working Group” consisting of entrepreneurial development grant recipients, the associations and organizations representing such recipients, and officials from the Small Business Administration, to carry out a study to determine the best methods for conducting data collection activities and create or revise existing systems dedicated to data collection.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate containing the findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under paragraph (1), including recommendations for revising existing data collection practices for the Small Business Development Center Program; and

(b) a proposed plan for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to implement such recommendations.

SEC. 5. FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND COSPONSORSHIPS.

Section 21(a)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND COSPONSORSHIPS.—A small business development center that participates in a private partnership or cosponsorship, in which the Administrator or designee of the Administrator also participates, may collect fees or other income related to the operation of such private partnership or cosponsorship.”.

SEC. 6. EQUITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

Subclause (I) of section 21(a)(4)(C)(v) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(v)(I)) is amended to read as follows:

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available in any fiscal year to carry out this section, not more than $600,000 may be used by the Administrator to pay expenses incurred in subparagraph (B) through (D) of section 20(a)(1).”.

SEC. 7. CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.

Section 21(a)(7)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or telephone number” and inserting “, telephone number, or email address”; and

(2) by inserting “, or the nature or content of such assistance, to any State, local, or Federal agency, or to any third party” after “receiving assistance under this section.”.

SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON AWARD OF GRANTS TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(7)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(7)(A)), as amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—The Administrator shall annually submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on any data collection activities related to the Small Business Development Center Program.”.

(C) WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND STUDY.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall establish a group to be known as the “Data Collection Working Group” consisting of entrepreneurial development grant recipients, the associations and organizations representing such recipients, and officials from the Small Business Administration, to carry out a study to determine the best methods for conducting data collection activities and create or revise existing systems dedicated to data collection.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate containing the findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under paragraph (1), including recommendations for revising existing data collection practices for the Small Business Development Center Program; and

(b) a proposed plan for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to implement such recommendations.
Congressional Record — House

October 21, 2019

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4406, the Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act.

Mr. Speaker, before I speak on the bill, I would like to thank Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ for working with us in such a bipartisan manner. It is surely refreshing in this age of intense partisan- ship to work together the way that we have for now, to improve the programs offered by the SBA. So I want to thank the chairwoman again for her leadership on the committee.

The Small Business Development Centers program, or SBDC, is the largest of the SBA's entrepreneurial development programs, with locations in all 50 States and also in all four territories. In fiscal year 2019, more than 250,000 clients received low-cost training, and nearly 200,000 clients received no-cost business consulting.

H.R. 4406, this bill, includes several updates based on feedback from H.R. 4406 bolsters the Small Business Development Center, or SBDC, Network, which is the Small Business Administration's largest entrepreneurial resource partner.

The network delivers free face-to-face counseling and at-cost training in all aspects of business management to new and existing small firms. The services include, but are in no way limited to, assisting small businesses with developing a business plan, accessing capital. They offer regulatory compliance, technology development, and international trade.

The benefits of the program are tangible to business owners and the Federal taxpayer. For every Federal dollar appropriated in the SBDC program, $43.50 in new capital is generated. For every Federal dollar appropriated, $29.50 in new and existing small firms.

Unfortunately, over the years, Congress has asked the SBDCs to assume additional responsibilities, ranging from cybersecurity to export promotion.

Increasing the authorization level to $175 million a year, just as this bill does, will allow the program to grow and reach more American entrepreneurs.

H.R. 4406 also requires regular reporting to Congress on new metrics to help us better assess the program and how improvements can be made in the future.

Starting a business is not for the faint of heart, and strengthening the network will enable SBDCs to continue providing the in-depth business training that aspirants need to succeed. New and existing businesses are the cornerstone of our economy.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4406, the Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2019.

Mr. Speaker, as always, before we address the many benefits of the bill, I just want to thank the ranking member and his staff for all of their collaboration and hard work to bring this bipartisan package of bills to the floor.

Our committee prides itself on our bipartisan package of bills to the floor.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4406, the Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2019.

Mr. Speaker, as always, before we address the many benefits of the bill, I just want to thank the ranking member and his staff for all of their collaboration and hard work to bring this bipartisan package of bills to the floor.

Our committee prides itself on our bipartisan package of bills to the floor.

General Leave
jobs in the State of Maine, and that means helping small businesses succeed.

Thousands of small businesses in my State have launched or grown with help from small business development centers (SBDCs), as you heard them referred to, SBDCs.

Just last year, SBDCs served over 1,500 small businesses in my State, helped to start 136 new businesses, and worked to protect or create more than 800 jobs. Here are just a few of the small businesses that I have heard from directly in my district about this program:

SBDCs helped The Maine Meal in Skowhegan purchase a building in order to launch their new business;

The Milk House in Monmouth received the accounting and tax advice that they needed to help grow their business from an SBDC adviser, an important farming and dairy industry right here;

SBDCs helped Lost Valley Ski Area in Auburn, just across the river from my hometown, to develop a business plan so that they could secure the financing they needed to acquire and continue the Lost Valley Ski Area, which is very important to our community, particularly during the winter months.

I have visited each of these businesses and seen their work firsthand. These are just a few of the thousands of SBDC success stories in the State of Maine.

Given that small business development centers are the largest resource partner to SBA, it is particularly important for Congress to keep the program up to date and performing at a high level for small businesses throughout the country.

In Maine, the State’s lead SBDC runs 11 outreach locations in my congressional district alone, in partnership with other economic development entities, enabling small businesses in Maine’s rural communities to access valuable assistance.

While the centers have had many successes, we have also learned lessons about ways to improve the programs in the year since it was last reauthorized. That is why I am excited to lead this bill, alongside Vice Ranking Member RADEWAGEN, to reauthorize the program. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank her for her support of the bill. It has been a pleasure to work with her.

The Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2019 will make a number of positive changes to improve oversight, better enable SBDCs to partner with other organizations, bolster the center accreditation process, and improve the voice of SBDCs in setting the program’s direction.

I am particularly glad that the bill will help broaden rural small businesses access to this assistance by clarifying that centers are allowed to market and advertise their services. Rural access to SBA resources is key for States like Maine and many rural communities all over the country.

Finally, the bill will reaffirm appropriations at the level of $175 million for fiscal years 2020 through 2023, reaffirming Congress’ commitment to the program.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the chairwoman and the ranking member and, in particular, their staffs for forging a bipartisan path forward on the reauthorization of this program.

I would also like to thank Vice Ranking Member RADEWAGEN for coleading this bill with me, as well as Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK for joining me as cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill to keep the SBDC program up to date for the good of America’s small businesses. To help entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses.

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

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

America’s 30 million small businesses account for more than 56 million jobs and create two out of every three private-sector jobs in the United States. The SBA offers a wide range of free or low-cost counseling and training services through its entrepreneurial ecosystem to help entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses.

H.R. 4406 makes a number of improvements to the SBDC program. It will enable more collaboration between the center and SBA, improve the ability of this center to oversee its performance, while also clarifying other rules, such as confidentiality requirements.

Most importantly, this legislation is a much-needed reauthorization of the program for 4 years at greater authorization levels.

It is time for Congress to prove its commitment to entrepreneurs all over the country by strengthening one of the greatest resources, the SBA SBDC program. It is a commonsense move and one supported by the Association of Small Business Development Centers.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the ranking member for his support and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4405) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the women’s business center program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4405

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 “Women’s Business Centers Improvements Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.

Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 635) is amended as follows:

“SEC. 29. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Women’s Business Ownership established under subsection (k).

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) an organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code;

“(B) a State, regional, or local economic development organization, so long as the organization certifies that grant funds received under this section will not be commingled with other funds;

“(C) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), unless such institution is currently receiving a grant under section 21;

“(D) a development, credit, or finance corporation chartered by a State, so long as the corporation certifies that grant funds received under this section will not be commingled with other funds; or

“(E) any combination of entities listed in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

“(3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—A small business concern owned and controlled by women’ has the meaning given under section 3(n).

“(4) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER.—The term ‘women’s business center’ means the location at which counseling and training on the management, operations (including manufacturing, services, and retail), access to capital, international trade, Government procurement opportunities, and any other matter that is needed to start, maintain, or expand a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

“(5) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER ASSOCIATION.—The term ‘Women’s Business Center Association’ means any partnership organization formed by women’s business centers to pursue matters of common concern.
(b) Authority.—

(1) Establishment.—There is established a Women’s Business Center Program under which the Administrator may provide a grant to an eligible entity to operate one or more women’s business centers for the benefit of small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

(2) Use of funds.—The women’s business centers shall be designed to provide counseling and training that meets the needs of the small business concerns owned and controlled by women, as well as other entities; and

(iii) the performance of the eligible entity under this grant under this section, the Administrator shall consider—

(1) Initial Grant.—The amount of an initial grant, which shall be for a 5-year term, provided under this subsection to an eligible entity shall be not more than $300,000 annually as such amount is annually adjusted by the Administrator to reflect the change in inflation.

(b) Continuation grants.—The Administrator may award a continuation grant, which shall be for a 5-year term, of more than $300,000 annually as such amount is annually adjusted by the Administrator to reflect the change in inflation to an eligible entity that received an initial grant under this subsection (A).

(c) Application.—

(1) Initial grants and continuation grants.—To receive an initial grant or continuation grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Administrator in such form, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require, including—

(A) a certification that the eligible entity—

(i) has designated an executive director or program manager who may be compensated using grant funds awarded under this section or other sources, to manage the women’s business center for which a grant under subsection (b) is sought; and

(ii) meets accounting and reporting requirements established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(B) information demonstrating the experience and effectiveness of the eligible entity in—

(i) providing counseling and training described under subsection (b)(2); and

(ii) providing training and services to a representative number of women who are socially or economically disadvantaged; and

(C) a 5-year plan that—

(i) includes information relating to the assistance provided by the women’s business center in the area in which the women’s business center is located;

(ii) describes the ability of the eligible entity to meet the needs of the market to be served by the women’s business center, including the ability to obtain the matching funds required under subparagraph (C); and

(iii) describes the ability of the eligible entity to provide counseling and training described under subsection (b)(2), including to the extent practicable, the paperwork burden associated with carrying out subparagrapĥ (4) of section 633(a) of the Small Business Act; and

(2) Record retention.—

(A) In general.—The Administrator shall maintain a record of each application submitted under this subsection for not less than 3 years.

(B) Priorities for reduction.—The Administrator shall take steps to reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, the paperwork (as such amount is annually adjusted by the Administrator) to obtain sufficient non-Federal funds, for a 5-year period:

(i) the proposed location of a women’s business center to be operated by the applicant and the location’s proximity to Veteran Business Outreach Centers and to recipients of grants under this Program;

(ii) the experience of the applicant in providing entrepreneurial training;

(iii) the amount of time needed for the applicant to commence operation of a women’s business center;

(iv) the capacity of the eligible entity to meet the needs of the market to be served by the women’s business center operated by the applicant;

(v) the advice and counsel of a Women’s Business Center Association to determine areas with unmet needs and the likelihood that the recipient will become accredited.

(3) Selection criteria.—

(A) Rulemaking.—The Administrator shall issue regulations to specify the criteria for review and selection of applicants under this subsection.

(B) Modifications prohibited after announcement.—With respect to a public announcement of any opportunity to be awarded a grant under this Program, the Administrator may not modify regulations issued pursuant to subparagraph (A) after an opportunity to be awarded a grant under this Program has been announced.

(C) Limitation.—The Administrator may not issue a waiver under this paragraph if the waiver would undermine the credibility of the Women’s Business Center Program.

(ii) the experience of the applicant in providing entrepreneurial training;

(iii) the population density of the area to be served by the women’s business center operated by the applicant; and

(iv) the ability of the applicant to sustain operations, including the applicant’s ability to obtain sufficient non-Federal funds, for a 5-year period:

(C) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed as prohibiting the Administrator from modifying the regulations issued pursuant to subparagraph (A) after an opportunity to be awarded a grant under this Program has been announced as such regulations apply to an opportunity to be awarded a grant under this section that the Administrator has not yet publicly announced pursuant to subsection (h)(1).

(e) Matching Requirements.—

(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (5), upon approval of an application submitted under subsection (c), the eligible entity shall agree to obtain contributions from non-Federal sources—

(A) in the first and second year of the term of an initial grant, if applicable, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars; and

(B) in each subsequent year of the term of an initial grant, if applicable, or for the term of a continuation grant, 1 non-Federal dollar for each Federal dollar.

(ii) the demonstrated ability of the eligible entity to raise non-Federal funds; and

(iii) the performance of the eligible entity under the initial grant.

(C) Limitation.—The Administrator may not issue a waiver under this paragraph if the Administrator determines that granting the waiver would undermine the credibility of the Women’s Business Center Program.

(f) Excess non-Federal dollars.—The amount of non-Federal dollars obtained by an eligible entity that is above the amount that is required to be obtained by the eligible entity under this paragraph, is subject to the requirements of part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, if such amount of non-Federal dollars—

(A) is not used as matching funds for purposes of implementing the Women’s Business Center Program; and

(B) was not obtained using funds from the Women’s Business Center Program.

(g) Carryover.—Excess non-Federal dollars described in paragraph (f) may be used for the matching funds requirement described under paragraph (c) for the subsequent one-year grant term, if applicable, except that such amounts shall be subject to the requirements of part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

(h) Other requirements.—
(1) Separation of Funds.—An eligible entity shall—

(A) operate a women’s business center under this section separately from other projects of the eligible entity;

(B) separately maintain and account for any grants received under this section.

(2) Examination of Eligible Entities.—

(A) Site Visit.—Before receiving an initial grant under this section, each applicant shall have a site visit by an employee of the Administration, in order to ensure that the applicant has sufficient resources to provide the services for which the grant is being provided.

(B) Annual Programmatic and Financial Examination.—An employee of the Administration shall—

(i) conduct an annual programmatic and financial examination of each eligible entity, as described in subsection (g); and

(ii) provide the results of such examination to the eligible entity.

(3) Remediation of Problems.—

(A) Plan of Action.—If an examination of an eligible entity conducted under paragraph (2)(B) identifies any problems, the eligible entity shall, within 45 calendar days of receipt of the results of such examination, provide the Assistant Administrator with a plan of action, including specific milestones, for correcting such problems.

(B) Review by the Assistant Administrator.—The Assistant Administrator shall review each plan of action submitted under subparagraph (A) within 30 calendar days of receipt thereof. If the Assistant Administrator determines that such plan—

(i) will bring the eligible entity into compliance with all the terms of the grant agreement, the Assistant Administrator shall approve such plan; or

(ii) will enable the Assistant Administrator to remedy the problems identified in the annual examination to which the plan of action relates, the Assistant Administrator shall set forth such reasons in writing and provide such determinations to the eligible entity within 15 calendar days of such determination.

(C) Amendment to Plan of Action.—An eligible entity receiving a determination under subparagraph (2)(B) identifies any problems, the eligible entity shall, within 45 calendar days from the receipt of such determination, amend the plan of action to satisfy the Assistant Administrator. The Assistant Administrator shall approve or reject such amendment within 15 calendar days after the receipt thereof. If the Assistant Administrator determines that such plan—

(i) will bring the eligible entity into compliance with all the terms of the grant agreement, the Assistant Administrator shall approve such plan; or

(ii) will enable the Assistant Administrator to remedy the problems identified in the annual examination to which the plan of action relates, the Assistant Administrator shall set forth such reasons in writing and provide such determinations to the eligible entity.

(E) Appeal of Assistant Administrator Determination.—

(i) In General.—If the Assistant Administrator rejects an amended plan under subparagraph (D), the eligible entity shall have the opportunity to appeal such decision to the Administrator, who may delegate such appeal to an appropriate officer of the Administration.

(ii) Opportunity for Explanation.—Any appeal described under clause (i) shall provide an opportunity for the eligible entity to provide, in writing, an explanation of why the Assistant Administrator rejected such amendment and request a review by the Administrator of the determination.

(iii) Notice of Determination.—The Administrator shall provide to the eligible entity a determination of the appeal, not later than 15 calendar days after the eligible entity files an appeal under this subparagraph, stating the reasons for the determination.

(iv) Effect of Failure to Act.—If the Administrator fails to act on an appeal made under this subparagraph within the 15-day period specified under clause (iii), the eligible entity’s amended plan of action submitted under subparagraph (C) shall be deemed to have been approved.

(4) Termination of Grant.—

(A) In General.—The Administrator shall terminate a grant to an eligible entity under this section if—

(i) the eligible entity fails to comply with—

(I) a plan of action approved by the Assistant Administrator under paragraph (3)(C); or

(II) an amended plan of action approved by the Assistant Administrator under paragraph (3)(D) or approved on appeal under paragraph (3)(E); or

(B) Appeal of Termination.—An eligible entity shall have the opportunity to challenge the termination of a grant under subparagraph (A) on the record and after an opportunity for a hearing.

(C) Final Agency Action.—A determination made pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall be considered final agency action for the purposes of chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) Consultation with Majority Women’s Business Center Association.—If a majority of women’s business centers that are operating pursuant to agreements with the Administration are members of an individual Women’s Business Center Association, the Administrator shall—

(A) recognize the existence of and activities of such Association; and

(B) consult with the Association on, and negotiate with the Association in the development of documents with respect to—

(i) announcing the annual scope of activities pursuant to this section; and

(ii) governing the general operations and administration of women’s business centers, specifically including the development of regulations and a uniform negotiated cooperative agreement for use on an annual basis when entering into individual negotiated agreements with women’s business centers.

(6) Program Examination.—

(A) In General.—The Administrator shall—

(i) develop and implement an annual programmatic and financial examination of each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section; and each such eligible entity shall provide to the Administrator—

(I) an itemized cost breakdown of actual expenditures for costs incurred during the preceding year; and

(II) documentation regarding the amount of matching assistance from non-Federal sources obtained and expended by the eligible entity during the preceding year in order to meet the requirements of subsection (e) and, with respect to any in-kind contributions described in subsection (e)(2) that were used in whole or in part to satisfy the requirements of such subsection (e), verification of the existence and valuation of those contributions; and

(B) analyze the results of such examination and, based on that analysis, make a determination regarding the programmatic and financial viability of each women’s business center operated by the eligible entity.

(7) Conditions for Continued Funding.—In determining whether to award a continuation grant to an eligible entity, the Administrator—

(A) shall consider the results of the most recent examination of the eligible entity under paragraph (1); and

(B) shall determine if—

(I) the eligible entity has failed to provide, or provided inadequate, information under paragraph (1)(A); or

(II) the eligible entity has failed to provide any information required to be provided by the women’s business center for purposes of the management report under subsection (m); and

(C) shall consider the accreditation status as described in subsection (k)(4).

(8) NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIRED.—The Administrator may only make a change to the standards by which an eligible entity obtains a determination of continued eligibility or is not eligible for a determination of noneligibility under section 408 of the Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988. The Office of Women’s Business Ownership shall be administered by
an Assistant Administrator, who shall be appointed by the Administrator.

(2) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF WOMEN'S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.—

(A) DEFINITION.—The position of Assistant Administrator shall be a Senior Executive Service position under section 332a(2) of title 5, United States Code. The Assistant Administrator shall serve as a noncareer appointee (as defined in section 332a(7) of that title).

(B) DUTIES.—The Assistant Administrator shall administer the programs and services of the Office of Women's Business Ownership and perform the following functions:

(1) Recommend the annual administrative and program budgets of the Office and eligible entities and a grant under the Women's Business Center Program.

(ii) Review the annual budgets submitted by each eligible entity receiving a grant under the Women's Business Center Program.

(iii) Collaborate with other Federal departments and agencies, State and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations to maximize utilization of taxpayer dollars and reduce (or eliminate) any duplication among the programs overseen by the Office of Women's Business Ownership and those of other entities that provide similar services to women entrepreneurs.

(iv) Maintain a clearinghouse to provide for the dissemination and exchange of information between women's business centers.

(v) Serve as the vice chairperson of the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise and as the liaison for the National Women's Business Council.

(B) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of Women's Business Ownership shall be to assist women entrepreneurs to start, grow, and compete in the global markets by providing quality support with access to capital, access to markets, job creation, growth, and counseling by—

(A) fostering participation of women entrepreneurs in the economy by overseeing a network of women's business centers throughout States and territories;

(B) creating public-private partnerships to support entrepreneurs and conduct outreach and education to small business concerns owned and controlled by women; and

(C) working with other programs of the Administrator to—

(i) ensure women are well-represented in those programs and being served by those programs;

(ii) identify gaps where participation by women in those programs could be increased.

(4) ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall publish standards for a program to accredit eligible entities that receive a grant under this section.

(B) PUBLIC COMMENT; TRANSITION.—Before publishing the standards under subparagraph (A), the Administrator—

(i) shall provide a period of not less than 60 days for public comment on such standards; and

(ii) may not terminate a grant under this section absent evidence of fraud or other criminal misconduct by the recipient.

(C) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Administrator shall enter into contracts or agreements, by contract or otherwise, with a Women's Business Center Association to provide assistance in establishing the standards required under subparagraph (A) and for carrying out an accreditation program pursuant to such standards.

(6) CONTINUATION GRANT CONSIDERATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In determining whether to award a continuation grant under this section, the Administrator shall consider the results of the annual programmatic and financial examination conducted under subsection (g) and the accreditation program.

(B) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—After the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator may not award a continuation grant to an eligible entity if the applicable eligible entity has been approved under the accreditation program conducted pursuant to this subsection, except that the Assistant Administrator of Women's Business Ownership may waive such accreditation requirement, in the discretion of the Assistant Administrator, upon a showing that the eligible entity is making a good faith effort to obtain accreditation.

(7) ANNUAL CONFERENCE.—Each women's business center shall participate in an annual conference facilitated by a Women's Business Center Association.

(1) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall provide the following:

(A) A public announcement of any opportunity to be awarded grants under this subsection, to include the selection criteria under subsection (d) and any applicable regulations.

(ii) To any applicant for a grant under this section that failed to obtain such a grant, an opportunity to brief with the Administrator to review the reasons for the applicant's failure.

(B) To an eligible entity that receives an initial grant under this section, if a site visit or review of the eligible entity is carried out by an officer of the Administrator (other than the Inspector General), a copy of the site visit report or evaluation, as applicable, within 30 calendar days of the completion of such visit or evaluation.

(2) ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate an annual report on the effectiveness of women's business centers established through a grant awarded under this section.

(III) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) Information concerning, with respect to each women's business center established pursuant to a grant awarded under this section, the most recent analysis of the annual programmatic and financial examination of the applicable eligible entity, as required under subsection (g)(1)(B), and the subsequent determination made by the Administrator under this section.

(B) The number of persons advised and trained through the Women's Business Center Program;

(C) The total number of hours of advising and training through the Program;

(D) The demographics of Program participants to include gender, race, and age of such participants;

(E) The number of Program participants who are veterans;

(F) The number of new businesses started by participants in the Program;

(G) To the extent practicable, the number of jobs supported, created or retained with assistance from women's business centers; and

(H) The number of referrals made to other resources and programs of the Administrator.

(M) the results of satisfaction surveys of participants, including a summary of any comments received from such participants; and

(N) any recommendations by the Administrator to improve the delivery of services by women's business centers.

(3) EXPEDITED ACQUISITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may use the acquisition methods provided in section 8753 of title 10, United States Code, for grant awards and may not be used for purposes of small business concerns assisted through the Program.

(4) A CREDITABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section, to remain available until expended, $31,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2023.

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—In general.—Except as provided in subparagraph (b), amounts made available under this subsection for fiscal year 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter, may only be used for the purposes for which such amounts are made available for costs incurred by the Administrator in connection with the management and administration of the program under this section.

(3) TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE, increases or decreases in revenues for the assisted small business concerns;

(4) the number of referrals made to other resources and programs of the Administrator;

(5) any recommendations by the Administrator to improve the delivery of services by women's business centers.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section, to remain available until expended, $31,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2023.

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—In general.—Except as provided in subparagraph (b), amounts made available under this subsection for fiscal year 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter, may only be used for the purposes for which such amounts are made available for costs incurred by the Administrator in connection with the management and administration of the program under this section.

(3) TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE, increases or decreases in revenues for the assisted small business concerns;
Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, for the period—

(1) beginning on the day after the last day of the prior year agreement under such section 29(m); and

(2) ending at the end of the third fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of Small Business Administration shall issue such rules as are necessary to carry out section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656), as amended by this Act, and ensure that a period of public comment for such rules is not less than 60 days.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4405, the Women's Business Centers Improvements Act.

Women's Business Centers, or WBCs, are a critical component of SBA's entrepreneurial ecosystem. WBCs were created to assist small businesses primarily owned by women, many of whom are socially and economically disadvantaged.

The WBC program funds more than 100 centers nationwide and offers a full range of counseling and training services for all stages of business development. Many of the WBCs provide multilingual services, maintain evening and weekend hours to accommodate clients who work full time, and allow children to attend training sessions with their mothers.

In fiscal year 2018, the WBC program trained and advised over 150,000 clients and created nearly 12,000 small businesses. It has also proven to be a great return on investment, just like the SBDCs. For every dollar invested in WBCs, $36 is returned to the economy. And, with women making up the fastest growing sector of entrepreneurs, it is imperative to invest in modernizing and adequately funding the program.

The Women's Business Centers Improvements Act increases the authorization level to $31.5 million each year and lifts the cap on individual center grants to $300,000, allowing more established centers to expand their reach to greater numbers of women entrepreneurs, particularly those of whom are socially and economically disadvantaged.

Additionally, this legislation makes key changes to the program: enabling the WBCs to serve more of America's nearly 30 million women-owned small businesses. By eliminating unnecessary reporting requirements and creating a transparent and consultative process between SBA and the Association of Women's Business Centers, the bill guarantees WBCs can meet the growing demand for their services.

I want to thank Representative DAVIDS and Representative HAGEDORN for their diligence in working to get this bill right and ensuring that women entrepreneurs across the country have continued access to vital counseling and training.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4405, the Women's Business Centers Improvements Act of 2019. I commend and urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 4405, the Women's Business Centers Improvements Act of 2019, which would increase access to vital resources and opportunities for female entrepreneurs in Kansas and across the country.

I thank Ranking Member CHABOT and Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ for their commitment to small businesses in our country.

I thank my fellow Small Business Committee member, Representative HAGEDORN, for cosponsoring and leading this bipartisan piece of legislation.

This bill helps to strengthen the Women's Business Center program, which funds more than 100 women's business centers, also known as WBCs, across the country and in the district I represent in Kansas.

These centers provide small business owners, many of whom are socially and economically disadvantaged, with critical counseling and training at all stages of their business development. Many WBCs provide multilingual services, maintain evening and weekend hours to accommodate clients who work full time, and allow children to attend sessions with their mothers.

The value of WBCs cannot be overstated. Women are the fastest growing sector of entrepreneurs in our country. We often forget that up until 1988, women would have a hard time applying for a business loan without a male relative to cosign it.

Now, more than 11.6 million businesses in the United States are owned by women, and more than 5.4 million businesses are majority owned by women of color.

But even though we have made great progress, many unique challenges still exist for women, particularly women of color, to start and grow a business. These include things like limited access to funding resources and the support system needed to get a business off the ground and maintain its success.

I see this firsthand when I am doing a “Sharice’s Shift” in my district. It is our outreach program where I work at a local business and spend time with that business owner in my community.

WBCs are critical in addressing a whole range of women's entrepreneurial needs. They provide training, mentoring, business development, and
financing opportunities for 145,000 women entrepreneurs each year.

The Kansas City Women's Business Center, located in Fairway, Kansas—which I proudly represent—serves over 600 clients annually in both Kansas and Missouri through business trainings, workshops, counseling, and access to capital programs.

That is why it is so important to support the WBC program. Despite the tremendous growth of the program since its creation, its resources have not kept up with the even greater growth of women entrepreneurs.

My bill would authorize funding for the WBC program for 4 years at $31.5 million. It is currently at $18 million. This increase ensures the program can reach even more women.

It would also increase the cap on individual center grants to $300,000 and index for inflation for the first time since the program's creation. According to a survey conducted by the Women's Business Centers, 70 percent of the centers could match at least $300,000. And it would establish an accreditation program to strengthen WBCs and raise the standards of excellence for training and counseling of women entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Women's Business Centers Improvements Act and help ensure that we can create a level playing field for female entrepreneurs that sets them up for success.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN), the principal sponsor on the legislation on the Republican side.

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member CHABOT for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4405, the Women's Business Centers Improvements Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative DAVIDS, for sponsoring this bill, introducing it, and inviting me to co-author it. I appreciate her leadership on this.

This bipartisan legislation works to support women entrepreneurs nationwide by modernizing and strengthening the Women's Business Centers program. Our bill will increase access to training, counseling, assistance programs, capital, and workforce investment programs. In particular, our bill would establish an accreditation program for financial institutions to create new businesses, expand enterprises, and grow our United States economy.

Millions of women own small businesses in the United States, and that is a wonderful thing. Entrepreneurship and the Women's Business Center program are essential for empowering women to become business owners. By enhancing these services, we increase the ability to inspire and foster new generations of business leaders.

Small business is the job-producing backbone of our American economy. Whether you are in southern Minnesota, eastern Kansas, or communities across our Nation, it is critical that we foster an environment of growth where entrepreneurs of all stripes have access to the resources they need to succeed and are not stymied by excessive regulations, taxes, and other anti-business burdens.

According to the National Association of Women Business Owners, as of 2017, more than 11.6 million firms are owned and operated by women. These firms employ almost 9 million people and generate over $1.9 trillion in revenue.

To keep our economy growing, we must embrace, encourage, and promote emerging enterprises, including those owned by folks who do not fit the traditional mode of business owners to get started.

One of the great success stories that we have in women entrepreneurship is that of Christian Lintinen and her candy company in Minnesota’s First District. The company is called Maud Borup.

In May I had the opportunity to tour the 112-year-old wholesale confections company that specializes in gourmet candy, baking kits, food kits, and lots of other things. On the day I visited, my husband and I purchased gummi bears, the best I have ever enjoyed, to be honest with you.

Maud Borup started as a woman-owned, brick-and-mortar candy shop in St. Paul, even before women had the right to vote. Today, it is a wholesale company, continuing to offer opportunities for women. Ninety-six percent of its more than 100 employees are women.

Christine, an Army veteran, no less, bought the company in 2005 and has expanded the company’s employment by 2,000 percent and sales by 2,500 percent. To put that into perspective, sales have gone from $500,000 all the way to $20 million, which is a good reason. She was named the Small Business Person of the Year in Minnesota for 2019.

She served her country and now she is serving her community by expanding jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for folks in southern Minnesota. This is one of the types of success stories that we are trying to emulate and replicate all across the country with our legislation, the Women's Business Centers Improvements Act.

Our legislation will fund more than 100 nonprofit organizations that provide training, counseling, and technical assistance, specifically for women entrepreneurs.

Our bill, as the ranking member said, expands upon the success of H.R. 1600, which was passed by the House in May of 2018, but didn’t quite make it into law. Our legislation will make key improvements to the Small Business Administration’s Office of Women’s Business Ownership and the Women’s Business Center program by raising the initial grant amount to $300,000 and increasing the authorization level to $45.5 million for fiscal years 2020 through 2023.

This legislation establishes an accreditation program to strengthen Women’s Business Centers by increasing accountability and raising the standards of excellence for training and counseling of women entrepreneurs and will also create a transparent and consultative process for the selection of new center locations, while also requiring transparency and measure the effectiveness of the overall program.

Most importantly, the bill will help facilitate small business creation, provide much-needed reforms that will be a game changer to help women entrepreneurs, free aspiring entrepreneurs of undue burdens and barriers to entry, further economic expansion, and help hardworking Americans achieve their dreams.

I am incredibly proud of the bipartisan nature of this bill. I thank, again, Congresswoman DAVIDS for introducing and managing the bill. I am proud to stand with her to champion women-owned enterprises. And a special thanks to the Committee on Small Business, of course our chair, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member CHABOT for the bipartisan support that they have offered.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4405.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. In closing, although a little less than 40 percent of all firms in the United States are women owned, that number has increased by 176 percent over the last 20 years. They are growing twice as fast as other businesses, it is important to recognize women entrepreneurs as a driving force in today’s economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States has nearly 30 million women-owned firms, more than one-third of all firms. Our economy relies heavily on women-owned small businesses, as they generate over $1.3 trillion in revenues and employ 9.4 million workers.

H.R. 4405 ensures that they have access to the tools they need to succeed. The good news is, women-owned small businesses are growing two times faster, on average, than all businesses nationwide, and women of color are launching businesses 4.5 times faster than all businesses.

The discouraging news is that half of aspiring women business owners report a lack of available mentors. We must make it imperative to provide young, aspiring women entrepreneurs with the support they need to succeed.

That is why it is imperative for us to pass this legislation today, ensuring access to
mentorship and professional guidance to the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs.

The Women’s Business Centers Improvements Act builds on their success by creating uniformity through accreditation for WBCs and increasing maximum award levels so they have the resources to meet demands for their services.

We all agree that women business owners offer invaluable contributions to our economy. By passing this bill, we also honor the women.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4405.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SCORE FOR SMALL BUSINESS ACT OF 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4407) to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4407

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “SCORE for Small Business Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. SCORE PROGRAM PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

Section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 617) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(B)—

(A) by striking “a Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)” and inserting “the SCORE program described in subsection (c)”;

and

(B) by striking “SCORE may” and inserting “the SCORE Association (as defined in subsection (c)) may”;

and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) SCORE ASSOCIATION.—The term ‘SCORE Association’ means the Service Corps of Retired Executives Association or any successor or other organization that enters into a cooperative agreement (as described under paragraph (2)) with the Administrator to operate the SCORE program.

(B) SCORE FUNDATION.—The term ‘SCORE Foundation’ means an organization with a mission to support the SCORE Association and volunteers of the SCORE program.

(C) PROGRAM.—The term ‘SCORE program’ means the SCORE program authorized by subsection (b)(1)(B).

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the SCORE Association to carry out the SCORE program, which shall include the following requirements:

“(A) ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES.—The Administrator shall—

(i) conduct an annual financial examination of the SCORE Association to ensure that any Federal funds are allowable, allocable, and reasonable;

(ii) for contracts entered into by the SCORE Association to provide goods or services for the SCORE program, pay no more than an amount determined by the Administrator, review and approve such contracts;

(iii) establish a system through which the SCORE Association can provide documentation relating to such contracts; and

(iv) within 30 days of the receipt of a quarterly report on the achievements of the SCORE program submitted by the SCORE Association, reconcile and differences between such report and the performance results of the SCORE program reported in a management information system of the Office of Entrepreneurial Development.

(B) SCORE ASSOCIATION DUTIES.—The SCORE Association shall—

(i) manage nationwide chapters of the SCORE program;

(ii) develop guidance and provide annual training to employees of the SCORE Association on generating and using program income from the SCORE program;

(iii) submit documentation to the Administrator verifying such annual training is completed;

(iv) separate funds donated to the SCORE Association from program income and funds received pursuant to a cooperative agreement; and

(v) establish requirements for volunteers participating in the SCORE program, including requirements that each such volunteer shall—

(I) base the business experience and knowledge of the volunteer—

(aa) provide personal counseling, mentoring, and coaching on the process of starting, expanding, managing, buying, and selling a business at no cost to individuals who own, or aspire to own, small business concerns; and

(bb) facilitate free or low-cost education workshops for individuals who own, or aspire to own, small business concerns; and

(II) as appropriate, use tools, resources, and expertise of other organizations to carry out the SCORE program.

(C) JOINING SCORE.—The Administrator, in consultation with the SCORE Association, shall make and implement plans and goals to more effectively and efficiently provide services to individuals in rural areas, economically disadvantaged communities, or other traditionally underserved communities, including plans for electronic initiatives, web-based initiatives, chapter expansion, partnerships, and the development of new skills for volunteers participating in the SCORE program; and

(ii) develop and implement plans and goals to ensure expenditures of the SCORE program are fully compliant with any law, regulation, or procedure to manage Federal funds; and

(D) ONLINE COMPONENT.—In carrying out this subsection, the SCORE Association shall make use of online counseling, including by developing and implementing webinars and an electronic mentoring platform to expand access to services provided under this subsection and to further support entrepreneurs.

(3) INFORMATION.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the SCORE Association shall—

(A) centralize all accounting and finance systems of the SCORE program and develop a uniform policy and procedures to manage Federal funds; and

(B) designate an employee of the SCORE Association to serve as a compliance officer to ensure expenditures of the SCORE program are fully compliant with any law, regulation, or procedure to manage Federal funds; and

(C) establish a system through which the SCORE Association can provide documentation relating to such contracts; and

(P) COMPENSATION.—(A) SALARIES.—The salary of an employee of the SCORE Association shall not exceed the equivalent of the maximum rate of pay allowable for an individual in the career Senior Executive Service employed at the Small Business Administration.

(B) PERFORMANCE AWARDS.—The SCORE Association may spend up to 1.5 percent of the aggregate salaries of the SCORE Association on individual performance awards to employees of the SCORE Association, to be disbursed before the last day of the fiscal year, if not later than 60 days before disbursement the SCORE Association submits to the Administrator a report on the number and amount of such awards to be disbursed.

(C) SCORE FOUNDATION.—A member of the Board of Directors of the SCORE Association or an employee of the SCORE Association may not simultaneously serve on the Board of Directors of, or receive compensation from, the SCORE Foundation without written approval from the Administrator.

(D) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS.—The SCORE Association shall—

(A) annually update all manuals or other documents applicable to employees and volunteers of the SCORE Association or the SCORE program to include requirements relating to reporting procedures and protections for whistleblowers; and

(B) conduct an annual training for employees and volunteers of the SCORE Association or the SCORE program on the requirements described in subparagraph (A) and emphasize the use of the hotline established by the Office of the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit whistleblower reports.

(F) PUBLISHED MATERIALS.—The SCORE Association shall ensure all published materials include written acknowledgment of Small Business Administration support of the SCORE program if such materials are paid for in whole or in part by Federal funds.

(G) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—(A) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Administrator nor the SCORE Association may disclose the name, address, or telephone number—

(i) of any individual or small business concern receiving assistance from the SCORE Association without the consent of such individual or small business concern, unless—

(I) the individual or small business concern sends to the SCORE Association a written request for such a disclosure by a court in any civil or criminal enforcement action initiated by a Federal or State agency; or

(ii) the Administrator determines such a disclosure to be necessary for the purposes of conducting a financial audit of the SCORE program, in which case disclosure shall be limited to the information necessary for the audit.

(B) ADMINISTRATOR USE OF INFORMATION.—This paragraph shall not—

(I) restrict the access of the Administrator to SCORE program activity data; or

(II) prevent the Administrator from using program data to conduct client surveys.

(C) STANDARDS.—(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, after the opportunity for notice and comment, establish standards for:

1. Disclosures with respect to financial audits under subparagraph (A)(I); and

2. Conducting client surveys, including standards for oversight and procedures for dissemination and use of client information.

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"(1) MAXIMUM PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The standards issued under this subparagraph shall, to the extent practicable, provide for the maximum amount of privacy protection.

"(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business of the Senate a report on the performance and effectiveness of the SCORE program, which may be included as part of another report submitted to such Committees by the Administrator, and which includes—

"(A) the number of individuals counseled or trained under the SCORE program;

"(B) the number of hours of counseling provided under the SCORE program;

"(C) the number of local workshops;

"(D) the number of clients attending online and local workshops;

"(E) the number of unique clients served;

"(F) to the extent practicable, the demographics of SCORE program participants and volunteers, which shall include the gender, race, and age of each such participant or volunteer;

"(G) the cost to create a job, the cost to create a business, and return on investment;

"(H) referrals to other resources and programs of the Administration;

"(I) the number of participants in the SCORE program receiving financial assistance, including loans and grants, and of the loans, grants, and amounts provided under loan programs of the Administration;

"(J) the results of SCORE program participant satisfactory surveys, including a summary of any comments received from such participants;

"(K) the number of new businesses started up by SCORE program participants;

"(L) the number of such new businesses realizing revenue growth;

"(M) to the extent practicable, the number of jobs created with assistance from the SCORE program;

"(N) the total cost of the SCORE program;

"(O) any recommendations of the Administrator to improve the SCORE program; and

"(P) an explanation of how the SCORE program has been integrated with other resources and programs of the Administration.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SCORE PROGRAM.

Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) SCORE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1) such sums as are necessary for the Administrator to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements in a total amount that does not exceed $11,700,000 in each of fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORTS AND REPORT ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE SCORE PROGRAM.—

(1) STUDY.—The SCORE Association shall carry out a study on the future role of the SCORE program and develop a strategic plan for how the SCORE program will meet the needs of small business concerns during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, with specific objectives for the first, third, and fifth years of the 5-year period.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the SCORE Association shall submit to the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing—

"(A) all findings and determination made in carrying out the study required under paragraph (1);

"(B) the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1).

(b) AN EXPLANATION OF HOW THE SCORE ASSOCIATION PLANS TO ACHIEVE THE STRATEGIC PLAN.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The SCORE Association shall include in its strategic plan an explanation of how the SCORE program will meet the needs of small business concerns during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, with specific objectives for the first, third, and fifth years of the 5-year period.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR REPORT ON LEASED SPACE.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the online counseling and webinars required under paragraph (3) of section 8(c) of the Small Business Act, as added by section 2 of this Act, including a description of—

"(1) how the SCORE Association determines electronic mentoring needs, develops training for electronic mentoring, establishes webinar criteria curricula, and evaluates webinar and electronic mentoring results;

"(2) the internal controls that are used and a summary of the topics covered by the webinars; and

"(3) performance metrics, including the number of small business concerns counseled by, the number of small business concerns created by, the number of jobs created and retained by, the number of small business concerns employed in the U.S. that received mentoring from SCORE program participants and volunteers, and the cost of leased space that is donated to the SCORE Association.

(c) ONLINE COMPONENT REPORT.—Before the last day of the fiscal year 2020, the SCORE Association shall submit to the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the effectiveness of the online counseling and webinars required under paragraph (3) of section 8(c) of the Small Business Act, as added by section 2 of this Act, including a description of—

"(1) how the SCORE Association determines electronic mentoring needs, develops training for electronic mentoring, establishes webinar criteria curricula, and evaluates webinar and electronic mentoring results;

"(2) the internal controls that are used and a summary of the topics covered by the webinars; and

"(3) performance metrics, including the number of small business concerns counseled by, the number of small business concerns created by, the number of jobs created and retained by, the number of small business concerns employed in the U.S. that received mentoring from SCORE program participants and volunteers, and the cost of leased space that is donated to the SCORE Association.

SEC. 5. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

"(1) in section 7 (15 U.S.C. 636)—

"(A) in subsection (a)—

"(i) in the heading, by inserting "SCORE program" after "SCORE"; and

"(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking "Service Corps of Retired Executives" and inserting "SCORE program"; and

"(B) in subsection (b), by striking "Service Corps of Retired Executives" and inserting "SCORE program"; and

"(2) in section 22 (15 U.S.C. 649)—

"(A) in subsection (b)(12)—

"(i) in the heading, by inserting "SCORE program" after "SCORE"; and

"(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking "Service Corps of Retired Executives" and inserting "SCORE program"; and

"(B) in subsection (b)(13), by striking "Service Corps of Retired Executives" and inserting "SCORE program".

(b) OTHER LAWS.—

"(1) ADMINISTRATION; ADMINISTRATOR.—The terms "Administration" and "Administrator" mean, respectively, the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof.

"(2) SCORE ASSOCIATION; SCORE PROGRAM.—The terms "SCORE Association" and "SCORE program" have the meaning given in this Act.

"(3) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—The terms "SCORE Association" and "SCORE program" shall include—

"(A) an explanation of how the SCORE program will meet the needs of small business concerns during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, with specific objectives for the first, third, and fifth years of the 5-year period;

"(B) a report on the performance and effectiveness of the SCORE program, which may be included as part of another report submitted to such Committees by the Administrator, and which includes—

"(i) the number of individuals counseled or trained under the SCORE program;

"(ii) the number of hours of counseling provided under the SCORE program;

"(iii) the number of local workshops;

"(iv) the number of clients attending online and local workshops;

"(v) the number of unique clients served;

"(vi) to the extent practicable, the demographics of SCORE program participants and volunteers, which shall include the gender, race, and age of each such participant or volunteer;

"(vii) the cost to create a job, the cost to create a business, and return on investment;

"(viii) referrals to other resources and programs of the Administration;

"(ix) the number of participants in the SCORE program receiving financial assistance, including loans and grants, and of the loans, grants, and amounts provided under loan programs of the Administration;

"(y) the results of SCORE program participant satisfactory surveys, including a summary of any comments received from such participants;

"(z) the number of new businesses started up by SCORE program participants;

"(AA) the number of such new businesses realizing revenue growth;

"(BB) to the extent practicable, the number of jobs created with assistance from the SCORE program;

"(CC) the total cost of the SCORE program;

"(DD) any recommendations of the Administrator to improve the SCORE program; and

"(EE) an explanation of how the SCORE program has been integrated with other resources and programs of the Administration.

"(f) GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include the extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill before us, H.R. 4407, the SCORE for Small Business Act.

There are nearly 30 million small businesses in the United States, representing more than 99 percent of all businesses. These small firms employ nearly 50 percent of all private-sector employees in the U.S.

The SBA administers a portfolio of entrepreneurial development programs, which includes the SCORE program. Since its inception, the SBA has undertaken efforts to connect new entrepreneurs and small business owners with more experienced businessmen and -women. This expansive network of entrepreneurs, business leaders, and executives who volunteer as mentors to small firms, both in person and online.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include the extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill before us, H.R. 4407, the SCORE for Small Business Act.

There are nearly 30 million small businesses in the United States, representing more than 99 percent of all businesses. These small firms employ nearly 50 percent of all private-sector employees in the U.S.

The SBA administers a portfolio of entrepreneurial development programs, which includes the SCORE program. Since its inception, the SBA has undertaken efforts to connect new entrepreneurs and small business owners with more experienced businessmen and -women. This expansive network of entrepreneurs, business leaders, and executives who volunteer as mentors to small firms, both in person and online.
SCORE has grown to become one of the Federal Government’s largest volunteer business adviser and mentoring programs. Yet, the SBA OIG found that improvements are needed to ensure SCORE minimizes risk of fraud or misuse of program funds and to strengthen SBA’s ability to review the effectiveness of the program.

On July 11, 2019, our Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations held a hearing to examine the agency’s oversight of the SCORE program. This bill is a direct result of that hearing and much stakeholder engagement.

H.R. 4407 not only reauthorizes this essential program, but it also takes steps to restore integrity, accounting, and performance to the program. Doing so ensures the program will continue to have the ability to meet the needs of entrepreneurs.

With technology enhancements and streamlined service processes, SCORE mentoring will now be accessible to business owners no matter their location.

I commend Congressman Herin and Congresswoman Craig for working together to make sure that the counseling and training programs are operating effectively, as well as holding SBA accountable as a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4407, the SCORE for Small Business Act of 2019.

This legislation will allow the SCORE program to continue to offer business mentoring and training to thousands of entrepreneurs and small business owners each year.

The program currently includes over 11,000 volunteer mentors with expertise across 62 industries that collectively provide more than a million hours of business counseling each year.

When an entrepreneur seeks a SCORE mentor, they are purposefully paired with a business professional with knowledge in a specific field or experience facing specific challenges. This process ensures that the goals of the entrepreneur are met by the volunteer mentor.

In addition to SCORE’s mentorship services, the program also offers in-person business training classes at its 350 chapter locations nationwide.

Entrepreneurs can also utilize the extensive online training opportunities and free business tools available on SCORE’s national website.

Over the last 50 years, SCORE has become the Federal Government’s largest business mentoring program with over 800 locations nationally and over 11,000 volunteers. Last year, SCORE mentors provided personalized guidance to nearly 140,000 clients. More than 400,000 clients attended online and local SCORE workshops.

This legislation will allow SCORE to continue to provide these important services. H.R. 4407, the SCORE for Small Business Act of 2019, adds strict safeguards to core provisions of the SCORE bill passed last year in May.

This legislation, offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG), also establishes strict new compliance and oversight requirements to protect taxpayer dollars and sets new outcome-based performance goals to ensure the program meets the SBA’s standards and congressional intent.

These provisions will significantly increase congressional oversight of the program and provide future Congresses with additional information about the health of the program.

I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) for their leadership on this and also for their very thoughtful approach to the passage of this legislation.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN), who is the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4407.

The Service Corps of Retired Executives, better known as SCORE, has helped more than 11 million entrepreneurs over the last 50 years. SCORE is a network of more than 44,000 volunteer and retired business executives who act as mentors for entrepreneurs. These volunteers provide face-to-face counseling on business issues ranging from planning to budgeting, marketing, and financing, all of this at no charge to the entrepreneur.

As a small business owner myself, I can attest to the importance of mentorship programs like this for first-time entrepreneurs. In a country like ours, where hard work and determination can put you on the path to the American Dream, the mentorship of an experienced business owner can be a huge asset to a startup.

Today, there are more than 300 SCORE chapters across the country, totaling more than 11,000 volunteers. This includes a chapter in my hometown of Tulsa, which has over 40 volunteers.

H.R. 4407 will continue the success of the SCORE program by reauthorizing the program for the future by modernizing data standards, closing loopholes for fraud, and adding important oversight to the use of funds. These provisions will only increase the integrity of SCORE and help the program to assist even more small businesses and entrepreneurs.

All the reforms made in this bill are supported by SCORE. This bipartisan effort to invest in our small business owners and encourage more Americans to follow their dreams is a big step forward in support of the things that make our country so special.

I thank my colleagues Ms. CRAIG from Minnesota for being an original cosponsor of this legislation and supporting its progress through the committee and now here on the House floor.

The passage of this bill will not only be an important moment for our country’s future business owners, but it is also my first piece of legislation to pass the House. Focusing on the businesses that drive our local economies and encouraging the growth of entrepreneurship across our country has been my top priority in Congress.

Reauthorizing and strengthening SCORE is a necessary step to help grow our economy and invest in our communities, and I urge my colleagues to vote ‘yes’ on this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, before I close today, I want to say that I really appreciate the leadership and the bipartisanism of Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member CHABOT. They do a great job with bipartisanship in their leadership. It is a great example for the people’s House. I encourage all of our Members to come sit in on a meeting sometime. It might be something that they would like to see.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers if the gentleman is ready to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The simple improvements in this bill will allow the SCORE program to continue its mission helping entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses.

With the vast majority of all businesses in the United States classified as small, it is vital that these business owners have access to effective entrepreneurial resources. H.R. 4407 would ensure that, regardless of location, a small business owner can access SCORE mentoring and training.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield the balance of my time.

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

There is no question that we need to support our small businesses across the country, no matter their location, industry, or expertise level.

H.R. 4407 does exactly that by reauthorizing a major component of SBA’s entrepreneurial programs and clarifying the utilization of the volunteer base. This bill is reflective of the growth of the SCORE program, which actively engages business owners, as well as retired executives, to mentor the next generation of job makers.
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Most importantly, it responds to the findings of the IG and makes strides to hold the agency and SCORE mentors accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. Velázquez) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4407.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. Velázquez. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 27. Concurrent Resolution providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the House wing of the Capitol for the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, late a Representative from the State of Maryland.

1615

ESTABLISHING A GROWTH ACCELERATOR FUND COMPETITION

Ms. Velázquez. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4387) to establish Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4387

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

SECTION 1. GROWTH ACCELERATOR FUND COMPETITION.

(a) In General.—There is established a program within the Small Business Administration known as the “Growth Accelerator Fund Competition” under which the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall award prizes on a competitive basis to covered entities that:

(1) assist small business concerns with accessing capital and finding mentors and networking opportunities; and

(2) advise small business concerns, including advising on market analysis, company strategy, revenue growth, and securing funding.

(b) Requirements.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Administrator shall carry out the program established under this section in accordance with the requirements of section 24 of the Stevenson-Wyden Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

(c) Application.—A prize only may be awarded to a covered entity that submits to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(d) Eligibility.—To be eligible to apply for a prize under this section, a covered entity—

(1) may not have an outstanding, unresolved financial obligation to the Federal Government; and

(2) may not be currently suspended or debarred as specified under subpart 9.4 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(e) Selection of Covered Entities.—From applications submitted (i) to the Administrator, the Administrator shall select covered entities that will provide to small business concerns—

(1) regular networking opportunities, including introductions to customers, partners, suppliers, advisory boards, and other persons;

(2) mentorship opportunities, including advice on strategy, technology, finances, and commercialization assistance;

(3) shared working environments focused on building a community of other similar small business concerns;

(4) resources and co-working arrangements;

(5) opportunities to pitch ideas to investors and other capital formation opportunities;

(6) small amounts of angel money, seed capital, or structured loans; and

(7) where appropriate, assistance in securing funding under the SBIR program or the STTR program established under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 633).

(f) Priority.

(1) In General.—The Administrator, in approving applications under this section, shall give priority to applications that include methods to provide assistance and advice to small business concerns located in under-served communities, including—

(A) small business concerns owned and controlled by women;

(B) small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans; and

(C) small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C))).

(2) Allocation of prizes awarded to covered entities under this section in a fiscal year, the Administrator shall ensure that—

(A) not less than 20 percent of such covered entities will assist small business concerns owned and controlled by women; and

(B) not less than 20 percent of such covered entities will assist and advise small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

(g) Selection of Small Business Concerns.—Any covered entity that receives a prize under the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition shall use a selective process to identify small business concerns to provide assistance and advice described under subsection (a).

(h) Development of Metrics.—The Administrator shall develop metrics to evaluate the effectiveness and the benefit to the people of the United States of the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition that—

(1) are science-based and statistically driven;

(2) reflect the mission of the Small Business Administration; and

(3) include factors relating to the economic impact of the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition.

(i) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Administrator.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(2) Covered Entity.—The term “covered entity” means a private entity that is incorporated in and maintains a primary place of business in the United States.

(3) Small Business Act Definitions.—The terms “small business concern owned and controlled by women”, “small business concern owned and controlled by veterans” have the meanings given such terms, respectively, in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(j) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator for each of fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 to carry out the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. Velázquez) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. Velázquez. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today, H.R. 4387, which establishes the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within SBA.

Accelerator programs provide founders of early-stage companies with education, mentorship, financing, cohort-based training, and technical assistance. There are many accelerator success stories. Among them are well-known companies like Airbnb, Dropbox, and Stripe.

The SBA funds the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition for the Nation’s most innovative, diverse, and promising small business accelerators and incubators. It was created in 2014 to support small business job creation by giving early-stage entrepreneurs opportunities to immerse themselves in an intense learning environment.

Monetary prizes of $50,000 to each of the winners go a long way towards supporting the development of accelerators and incubators.

Not only does the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition spur economic development and create jobs, but most importantly, it supports innovation in economic areas that are outside of what we have come to think of as traditional coastal tech hubs.

It supports places like the industrial heartland, where barriers to capital access have hindered entrepreneurs. The program also has a proven track record of investing in women and minority entrepreneurs.

The legislation will authorize $2 million in funds, annually, for 4 years, to
carry out the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition. H.R. 4387 continues our commitment of investment in the next generation of American entrepreneurs by promoting innovation and growing jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4387. This bipartisan legislation codifies the SBA’s Growth Accelerator Fund Competition.

Since 2014, the SBA’s Office of Investment and Innovation has run a yearly competition to identify the Nation’s best small business accelerators and incubators. The competition has proven successful over the past 5 years, and I expect that will continue to be successful during the authorization period.

The accelerators that win these awards represent a broad set of industries, from biotech to tech startups, to farming with a diversified range of demographic groups.

The winners are selected through a two-tier review panel process and are evaluated by experts in entrepreneurship, founders, and business plans, both inside and outside Federal Government. The expert judges review applications and pitch videos submitted by the finalists.

I am proud to say that three Cincinnati organizations have won an award prize since the initiative’s inception: The Brandery, First Batch, and Mortar. These award dollars have been reinvested in small business clients in Cincinnati communities.

As an authorized program rather than an SBA Administrator initiative, the competition will now be subject to greater congressional oversight.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and my fellow Democrat, Mr. BALDERSON, for their leadership on this bill. Their hard work on this bill has been informed by oversight findings, program feedback, and agency transparency.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has my full support. I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELázQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take this opportunity also to congratulate Congressman ADRIANO ESPAILLAT from New York and Mr. BALDERSON, for their leadership on this bill. Their hard work on this bill has been informed by oversight findings, program feedback, and agency transparency.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has my full support. I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELázQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take this opportunity also to congratulate Congressman ADRIANO ESPAILLAT from New York and Mr. BALDERSON, for their leadership on this bill. Their hard work on this bill has been informed by oversight findings, program feedback, and agency transparency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The Growth Accelerator Fund Competition at the SBA draws attention and funding to parts of the country where there are gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. This bipartisan bill, while congressionally authorizing an already successful program, will provide for increased reporting and better metrics to gauge program outcomes and will provide budding entrepreneurs with greater resources to build our communities.

This bill is a product of our bipartisan commitment at the Small Business Committee, and I want to thank all of our members, both Democratic and Republican, for their excellent work on this legislative package, as well as our chairwoman, Ms. VELázQUEZ, and her staff for working with our staff in a very cooperative, bipartisan way.

It would be great if the rest of the House worked as well as this committee does. I think it is the best committee in Congress. I am on Judiciary and Foreign Affairs, too, so they may not like that, but this is a really bipartisan committee, and it is a real joy to be on it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this bill’s adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Business accelerators help high-growth startup enterprises develop their products, identify promising customer segments, and secure resources, including vital capital and potential employees. It is clear that they serve an important role in innovation, and H.R. 4387 enhances the ability of the SBA’s Growth Accelerator Fund Competition so it can continue to assist entrepreneurs.

By opening the funding network for companies that may not otherwise have gained such exposure, the growth accelerator fund helps boost small business innovation and grow the economy.

The SBA growth accelerator program supports underserved business owners and fills critical gaps in capital access. In 2019, 60 percent of the winners were founded by women or founded by women and minority-owned businesses; 60 percent were from economically disadvantaged, or located in areas with a lower number of SBIR and STTR awards. This bill reinforces our committee’s pledge to entrepreneur and job creation.

Finally, I want to thank Mr. ESPAILLAT and Mr. BALDERSON for their diligence on this bill, and I also want to take the opportunity to thank the ranking member, Mr. CHABOT, his staff, and my staff.

What we are showing today is that there is not a Republican or Democratic approach when it comes to small businesses. This is the way that we do right by the American people.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELázQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4387.

The question was taken; and (two minutes), the House stood in recess.

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 4 o’clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

☐ 1822

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) at 6 o’clock and 22 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2513, CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-247) on the resolution (H. Res. 646) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2513) to ensure that persons who form corporations or limited liability companies in the United States disclose the beneficial owners of those corporations or limited liability companies, in order to prevent wrongdoers from exploiting
RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas President Trump released the transcript of a call between him and the President of Ukraine;

Whereas President Trump subsequently released the whistleblower complaint of August 12, 2019;

Whereas, in a September 26, 2019, hearing on the whistleblower complaint, House Intelligence Committee Chairman ADAM SCHIFF purported to relay the content of the phone call to the American people;

Whereas, instead of quoting directly from the available transcript, Chairman SCHIFF manufactured a false retelling of the conversation between President Trump and President Zelensky;

Whereas this egregiously false and fabricated retelling had no relationship to the call itself;

Whereas these actions of Chairman SCHIFF misled the American people, bringing disrepute upon the House of Representatives, and made a mockery of the impeachment process, one of this Chamber’s most solemn constitutional duties;

Whereas, for more than 2 years, Chairman SCHIFF has spread false accusations that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia;

Whereas, on March 20, 2017, then-Ranking Member SCHIFF read out false allegations from the Steele dossier accusing numerous Trump associates of colluding with Russia;

Whereas then-Ranking Member SCHIFF negotiated with Russian comedians whom he believed to be Ukrainian officials to obtain materials to damage the President of the United States politically;

Whereas, according to a New York Times article on October 2, 2019, Chairman SCHIFF’s committee staff met with the whistleblower prior to the filing of his complaint, and staff members communicated the content of the complaint to Chairman SCHIFF;

Whereas Chairman SCHIFF concealed his dealings with the whistleblower from the rest of the Intelligence Committee, and when asked on Oct 1 in a television interview whether he had any contact with the whistleblower, he lied to the American people and said, “We have not spoken directly with the whistleblower.”

Whereas members of the Intelligence Committee have lost faith in his objectivity and capabilities as chairman, with every Republican member on the committee having signed a letter calling for his immediate resignation as chairman; and

Whereas Chairman SCHIFF has hindered the ability of the Intelligence Committee to fulfill its oversight responsibilities of the Intelligence Community, an indispensable pillar of our national security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives censures and condemns Representative ADAM SCHIFF for conduct that misleads the American people in a way that is not befitting an elected Member of the House of Representatives;

(2) Representative ADAM SCHIFF will forthwith present himself in the well of the House for the pronouncement of censure; and

(3) Representative ADAM SCHIFF will be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would now recognize the gentleman from Arizona to offer the resolution just noticed.

Does the gentleman offer the resolution?

Mr. BIGGS. Yes.

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

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

Whereas President Trump released the transcript of a call between him and the President of Ukraine;

Whereas President Trump subsequently released the whistleblower complaint of August 12, 2019;

Whereas, in a September 26, 2019, hearing on the whistleblower complaint, House Intelligence Committee Chairman ADAM SCHIFF purported to relay the content of the phone call to the American people;

Whereas, instead of quoting directly from the available transcript, Chairman SCHIFF manufactured a false retelling of the conversation between President Trump and President Zelensky;

Whereas this egregiously false and fabricated retelling had no relationship to the call itself;

Whereas these actions of Chairman SCHIFF misled the American people, bringing disrepute upon the House of Representatives, and made a mockery of the impeachment process, one of this Chamber’s most solemn constitutional duties;

Whereas, for more than 2 years, Chairman SCHIFF has spread false accusations that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia;

Whereas then-Ranking Member SCHIFF falsely claimed in a March 2017 interview to have “more than circumstantial evidence” of collusion with Russia;

Whereas then-Ranking Member SCHIFF falsely claimed in a March 2017 interview to have “more than circumstantial evidence” of collusion with Russia;

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives censures and condemns Representative ADAM SCHIFF for conduct that misleads the American people in a way that is not befitting an elected Member of the House of Representatives;

(2) Representative ADAM SCHIFF will forthwith present himself in the well of the House for the pronouncement of censure; and

(3) Representative ADAM SCHIFF will be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table offered by the gentleman from Maryland.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that no more appeared to have it.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, on that motion to table, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules and pass: H.R. 4406; and H.R. 4407.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 165, not voting 28, as follows: (Roll No. 568)
Messes. ROZER and LOUDERMILK changed their vote from "yea" to "nay." So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule 22, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4406) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the small business development centers program, 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. Pursuant to the motion offered by Mr. ROYCE, the yeas and nays were ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro temore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 568, "yea" on rollcall No. 569, and "yea" on rollcall No. 570.

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**NOT VOTING—31**

Alfred Babin (LA) 
Collins (GA) 
Curtis (WA) 
Davis, Danny K. (CA) 
Dingell (MI) 
Gabard (NY) 
Gast (NC) 
Gooden (SC) 
Griffin (GA) 

**NOT VOTING—34**

Alfred Burch (NC) 
Bisch (CO) 
Collins (GA) 
Davis, Danny K. (CA) 
Dingell (MI) 
Gabbard (HI) 
Gast (NC) 
Gooden (SC) 
Griffin (GA) 

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Mr. TAKANO, Madam Speaker, please accept the following vote recommendations in my absence as I represent the United States at the formal ascension of the Emperor in Japan. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 568, "yea" on rollcall No. 569, and "yea" on rollcall No. 570.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Mr. ALLRED, Madam Speaker, as I am back home in Dallas, Texas in light of the tornado and storm, I submit the following vote explanation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 568, "yea" on rollcall No. 569, and "yea" on rollcall No. 570.
Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 27) providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the House wing of the Capitol for the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, late a Representative from the State of Maryland, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 27

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Architect of the Capitol is authorized and directed to transfer the catafalque which is situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center to the House wing of the Capitol so that such catafalque may be used in connection with services to be conducted there for the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, late a Representative from the State of Maryland, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN JACK EDWARDS

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

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my Alabama colleagues in remembering the extraordinary life of Alabama’s great public servant, the late Congressman Jack Edwards.

Jack served Alabama’s First Congressional District in Washington for 20 years. He was a great friend and mentor to me and countless others, and he was a true leader here in Congress where he led the rebuilding of our military under President Reagan.

Jack was a born leader who loved his country and who dedicated his life to answering the call of service. Jack helped create the United States Marine Corps and was taking on what many of us see as dangerous threats to our system of government. He was a true leader here in Congress for 20 years. He was a great friend and staff during this time of grief.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL HERBERT LLOYD WILKERSON ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, my Congressman, the United States Marine Corps is characterized by honor, courage, and commitment—as Marines would say, “Semper Fi.”

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Herbert Lloyd Wilkerson on his 100th birthday, a decorated veteran who truly personifies these values of the United States Marine Corps.

Major General Wilkerson first felt the call to serve following the attacks on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. Just five hours short of graduation, he was commissioned seconded by the United States Navy and later became the commanding officer of Camp Lejeune. He went on to serve our country in World War II, the Korean war, and Vietnam, soon becoming chief of staff and base commander for Camp Lejeune. General Wilkerson’s unrelenting commitment to serve the United States of America will inspire generations to come just as it inspired his own son, Major General Tom Wilkerson. Please join me in celebrating Major General Wilkerson’s 100 years of being always faithful to our country, serving with relentless patriotism and valor.

RECOGNIZING GOLD STAR MOTHER’S DAY

(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 this past September 29 as Gold Star Mother’s Day. Originally dedicated in 1936, the last Sunday in September each year honors mothers who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Recognition and sacrifice of our Nation is not only a personal commitment, but one that involves the sacrifice of entire families and even whole communities. In Gold Star Mothers we can see one of the most important reminders of this sacrifice.

Thank you to the Gold Star Mothers for your own service to our Nation. I understand that a day of recognition will not bring back the lives of your children, but you continue to be an inspiration to us all. With national conventions, fundraising events, and Federal advocacy, you continue to move forward and make our world a better place to live.
Recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Disability Employment Awareness Month and to celebrate the enormous contributions people with disabilities have made and will continue to make throughout the American workforce.

I especially want to highlight the work being done in Michigan's Ninth District by the Commission on Disabilities to promote inclusion in Warren, Michigan. On October 23 the commission is cohosting a Disability Awareness Fair to commemorate this month and connect workers with disabilities to important resources.

America is strongest when we harness the talents and creativity of all of our people. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the indisputable contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Recognizing the Veterans History Project

(Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an important veterans' initiative that I am proud to lead with Chairman TAKANO. It is essential that we recognize and commend the selfless sacrifice veterans have made to protect our most precious freedoms.

That is why Chairman TAKANO and I have challenged all Members of Congress to participate in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project by submitting at least one of their veteran constituents' stories to the project prior to Veteran's Day.

The Veterans History Project gives our Nation's heroes a platform to share and preserve their personal stories about their time in uniform to help Americans understand military service and its importance to our country's history. We can think of no better way to honor the men and women who fought for our freedoms in the weeks leading up to Veteran's Day than by ensuring that their unique stories of service are forever memorialized for future generations of Americans.

I would also like to associate my remarks with those about Elijah Cummings and wish his family God's blessings.

Honoring Congressman Elijah Cummings

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the extraordinary life of Congressman Elijah Cummings. He was a trailblazer for civil rights, a fierce advocate for equal justice, a defender of good government, and a friend and mentor to countless people, especially the members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Congressman Cummings was born the son of sharecroppers and rose to incredibly high levels, but he never forgot his roots. Elijah Cummings never stopped striving to ensure every American could reach his or her potential the way he did. He understood that we are all in this together, that as a Nation we rise and fall as one.

I will never forget those values which he taught and lived through his own example each and every day. We will always treasure the time we spent together and the lessons he taught all of us. When Congressman Cummings spoke, we listened. He helped so many of us. But Congressman Cummings' work is far from done. It is up to us to keep marching on his behalf and carry on the iconic legacy he has entrusted us to carry us forward.

Recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence is a terrible reality for far too many women, men, and children. By the time I finish this speech, roughly 20 people will fall victim to abuse at the hands of an intimate partner.

This is Ashley Hall, a mother of two young girls from my district. She was a dance instructor, a teacher’s aide, and she had a heart for those who struggled. Ashley was also a victim of domestic violence. She lost her life at the hands of her husband, a tragedy that will impact her daughters for the rest of their lives.

This month let the stories like Ashley’s be shared as a way to help others. Take time to reach out to those you think may be in need. Get involved by supporting local shelters and speak out against this tragic issue. Resources are available for those in need. The National Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at 1-800-799-7233.

Honoring Cody Stashak

(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. Mr. Speaker, Cody Stashak grew up in Mays Landing in south Jersey. He graduated from Oakcrest High School in 2012 where he played baseball and football for the Falcons and went on to attend Cumberland County College for 2 years where he played baseball, as well.

Cody moved on from our south Jersey district to St. John’s University in New York where he continued to excel in his sport. Now Cody has moved to the major leagues. Cody was drafted to the Minnesota Twins in 2015 where he was mainly used as a relief pitcher.

This year Cody made his major league debut in a recent game against the New York Yankees where he allowed only four hits and he struck out three. Cody, your talent and dedication are admirable, and we are so impressed with how far you have come.

Cody might be in Minnesota now, but we know that he is south Jersey through and through and his south Jersey community is rooting for him. I am happy to say that I have known Cody’s father and his grandfather through the years, and I know how proud they are and how proud south Jersey is of its son.

Congratulating Jill Stafford

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Principal Jill Stafford for being named the Principal of the Year for Region 10 by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

Having dedicated 27 years of her professional career to her students, Ms. Stafford has displayed her passion for education and commitment to her community. For the last 7 years Ms. Stafford has served as the principal of Lowery Freshman Center in Allen, Texas.

Ms. Stafford goes above and beyond each and every day for both her students and her colleagues. As students face the daunting transition into high school, it is critical that they have the unmatched support of strong leaders like Principal Stafford to keep them motivated and on track. I ask my colleagues and the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Principal Jill Stafford for her hard work and congratulate her on this well-earned recognition.

Honoring Congressman Elijah Cummings

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a great American patriot, Elijah Cummings.

On behalf of the people of Baltimore, I want to thank him for his incredible leadership, for his friendship to so many, for his mentorship of so many in the community and to me.

I had the privilege for almost 12 years, the last 12 years of Elijah’s life, to sit a few feet away from him in the
Oversight and Reform Committee and to see what a national leader he was, how he fought for the left out and the locked out.

I also had the opportunity to be with him on many occasions in Baltimore, to see how people responded to him, how they invested in his leadership. We will miss that dearly.

I was thinking today as I drove from Baltimore through West Baltimore, the community he loved, about his fight for the soul of our democracy, and I had anxiety about if we can continue that fight without him. But it occurred to me that Elijah would not have let us when he did if he didn’t believe that we had it within ourselves to finish that fight.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Elijah for his inspiration. May his memory be eternal.

RECOGNIZING THE STUDENTS OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(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 the students of the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology in Pleasant Gap, Pennsylvania.

Recently, I had the pleasure of joining several students back in Centre County for a very special project that they are working on. It is called Heroscaping.

The students are building a memorial at the Centre County Public Safety Training Center to honor first responders, particularly those who answered the call to serve when the World Trade Center was attacked on 9/11.

The project was recently finished, and it was an honor to join them when I was back in my district to help lay pavers and meet many of the students involved. The students were just 3 months old when the planes crashed into the Twin Towers. The others had not been born yet.

That is why projects like these are so important—to honor the men and women who rose to the occasion to protect our Nation and to ensure that the younger generations never forget their sacrifices.

INVESTIGATING PRESIDENT TRUMP AND UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, three of the House committees investigating President Trump’s dealings with Ukraine subpoenaed administration officials. They seek answers as to why President Trump would purposely withhold critical military assistance from Ukraine.

Such a request is well within the committee’s constitutional legislative powers. It is also central to establishing whether President Trump knowingly withheld military assistance to coerce Ukrainian Government officials into creating a false narrative on his political rival, Vice President Joe Biden.

On October 15, the committees received a letter from the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Defense rejecting the House subpoena. One letter even indicated the administration was “unable to produce your request for documents at this time.”

Mr. Speaker, this is unconscionable. As co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus and a senior member on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I am greatly disheartened that U.S.-Ukraine relations could be put at risk just to advance and cover up President Trump’s malfeasance.

America deserves transparency and truth, and every Trump administration must work with Congress or face constitutional justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEVIN of Michigan). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personal attacks toward the President.

HONORING BILL WINKKY

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Bill Winkky, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

Bill Winkky, son of Mary Emma and Robert Winkky, was born in Kingston, New York, on September 29, 1939. In his 80 years of life, he has been a mentor, a friend, a father, a husband, and an all-around good man who deserves to be recognized.

In 1963, Bill married Charlotte Sommerfield and has remained by her side for the past 56 years. Bill has such dedication to his wife and his family that it is heartwarming to see. Yet his family is not the only thing he has been dedicated to over the years.

He was a teacher, dedicating 32 1/2 years to educating and enriching the lives of the youth he taught. He also coached several sports, including football, wrestling, swimming, and track. The hours he spent dedicated to young people were well spent, and he had a profound impact on his students.

Bill also dedicated time to serving the people as the town of Veteran supervisor for 10 years, and he continues to hold this role now.

It is not often you have the pleasure of meeting a man as dedicated to helping others as Bill Winkky. He is a pillar in the community who has given so much of himself to our youth through his coaching and teaching tenure. He continues to be a great deal as the town of Veteran supervisor.

I am honored to know him, and I am equally honored to celebrate his achievements and his legacy of hard work, compassion, and community-mindedness here today.

Mr. Speaker, given the above, I ask this legislative body to pause in its deliberations and join me to honor Bill Winkky on his 80th birthday.

Godspeed, Bill, and God bless.

WEST MICHIGAN BLUE RIBBON AWARD

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate three west Michigan schools that have recently been recognized for their academic excellence and high student achievement.

It is an honor to represent Lakewood Elementary School and Eagle Crest Charter Academy in Holland, Michigan, and Peach Plains Elementary School in Grand Haven, which were each awarded the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award by the Department of Education.

Each year, this esteemed recognition is presented to K-12 schools across the Nation that show outstanding gains in student achievement or demonstrate academic excellence that goes above and beyond.

In west Michigan, we have a legacy of offering our children excellent educational opportunities. These three schools in Ottawa County join a wonderful group of west Michigan schools that have already earned this distinction in the past.

This award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and entire communities that have dedicated themselves to creating a learning environment where students can thrive and achieve academic success.

Congratulations to the Eagle Crest Charter Academy, Lakewood Elementary School, and Peach Plains Elementary, and the students, parents, and staff for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to improving educational outcomes in our communities.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH BROWN

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank an educator from my district who recently received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching from the National Science Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Elizabeth Brown of Bronce in southern York County was a chemistry, physics, and forensic science teacher at North Harford High School in Maryland. As a teacher, Beth started a Women in Science luncheon to support young women interested in careers in science.

Beth currently has left teaching but is working to help other science, technology, engineering, and math, or
STEM, teachers by writing Next Generation Science Standards curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, I am incredibly thankful for the passion that Beth shared with her students, instilling in them an appetite for learning that they will carry with them throughout their lives. 

Congratulations to Ms. Brown on receiving the Presidential award.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Elizabeth Brown for her hard work, and I thank all the teachers across southern York and Lancaster Counties who do great work educating our students every day.

RECOGNIZING DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to dyslexia, a learning disability that affects as many as one in five people.

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month, which is why I will be introducing this week calling on Congress to formally recognize it.

Those who have dyslexia struggle with language skills, making reading significantly more difficult.

While this is a serious problem, it is a solvable one. If educators identify dyslexia early on and teach children proper techniques, students can use these tools to succeed. Reading is foundational to education, as we first learn to read and then read to learn.

Dyslexia affects students equally regardless of intelligence, socioeconomic status, or gender. Many famous people, including Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, and George Washington, had dyslexia. They were able to achieve incredible things despite their learning disabilities.

However, 74 percent of children who are poor readers in third grade remain poor readers in third grade. This is why, as co-chair of the House Dyslexia Caucus so we can encourage my colleagues to join the House Dyslexia Caucus, we must help those students struggling with dyslexia so they can learn to read and then read to learn.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s previous announcement of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, and I thank my colleagues for giving us somewhat of a moment.

Congressman Cummings was born in Baltimore on January 18, 1951. He was one of seven children of Robert and Ruth Cummings. Although his family struggled financially, they always found a way to help others in their community.

Representative Cummings and his family lived in modest surroundings. As a child, he was attacked while trying to swim in the neighborhood swimming pool. Racist adults threw rocks and bottles that resulted in injuries but left him with a determination to study law and to become the fighter for social justice that characterized his life.

He would go on to receive his bachelor’s degree in political science from Howard University, and, while at Howard, he served as student government president. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Howard University, he obtained his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Congressman Cummings practiced law in Baltimore, and, at the age of 31, he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, where he served for 14 years. In 1986, he became the first African American speaker pro tempore. In 1996, Congressman Cummings won a special election to Congress. He immediately demonstrated his leadership talent and won the respect of his colleagues.

In 2001, he was elected as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, where he served with distinction. In 2011, he was elected by the Democratic Caucus as the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in January of this year, he became the chair of the committee.

At this difficult time in the history of our country, we were so fortunate to have had Representative Cummings in the leadership of such an important and contentious committee. He fought passionately for the rights of children separated from their families; he fought for everyone to have healthcare and medication that are affordable; and he fought for everyone to have access and the right to vote.

Anyone who attended a committee hearing could feel his passion. Even if they disagreed with him, they knew his passion was based on his belief and a commitment to fight for justice. The respect he afforded his opponents demonstrated for everyone to see how to lead with integrity and humility.

Chairman Cummings once said: "I'm not trying to do anything extraordinary. I'm trying to do what the Constitution says I'm supposed to do."

Representative Cummings' passing is a loss to the entire Nation, especially at this moment in history where he provided for us all an example of true leadership—leadership, not leadership for self-advancement. He provided an example for us all to emulate.

His memory will forever be in our hearts and his legacy is secured in history. In his words, he was, in fact, extraordinary.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLEGBURN), the majority whip.

Mr. CLEGBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for giving us somewhat of a moment.

Most people know that Elijah Cummings' roots were deep in South Carolina. I happen to represent the county in which his parents were born. They came north to Baltimore, seeking a better life for their children. They were sharecroppers in the county that gave birth to Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.

The interesting thing about the people of that community who formed the movement that spurred a national and, I dare say, international movement was the simplicity of their lives and their aspirations. The Brown case was not about integrating schools; it was about getting a schoolbus for their children.

The people who came together were people of modest means. The case got the name of Briggs v. Elliott. Harry Briggs was an ordinary man working at a filling station making $23 a week; his wife, Eliza, making $18 a week as a chambermaid in a motel. That is the story that Elijah Cummings' family left.

He came back to that community often, and we would talk about it: the
Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), a civil rights service with Chairman Cummings.

I thank the majority whip for his heartfelt remarks and for sharing his personal reflections on his friendship and service with Chairman Cummings.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Lewis), a civil rights icon and a man whom I am very honored to serve with in this body each and every day.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a close, dear, and beloved friend, almost like a brother, Congressman Elijah Cummings.

This great man, this brother, spent 36 years in public service to his people, his home State, and to our country. He was a leader who loved this Nation, all of its people, and fought until his very last breath for those who had been left out and left behind.

He dedicated every single moment of his life to strengthening and preserving our Union. He spent every waking moment thinking of those who were hurting and suffering. He focused all of his energy on behalf of Congress and the people we represent.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to know and to love him. It was an honor to serve with him. It was a great honor to consider him my brother and my friend.

Sometimes people would confuse us and say: "Hello, Elijah," or, "Hello, John Lewis" to him, and we would joke about it. We would laugh about it. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the people in Maryland and people around our Nation and people around the world: We have lost a warrior. I don't think we will be so lucky or so blessed to see the likeness of this man again.

As a nation, and as a people, we owe Chairman Cummings a debt of gratitude. There are no words to describe the loss of our brother, our friend, and our colleague who lived up to this great and powerful name. It hurts so deeply that all I can do is keep his wife, his family, and all those who knew and loved him in my constant prayers.

Elijah, we hope to see you again one day. Blessed be your name.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, we are all saddened by the passing of our colleague, and the legacy of Elijah Cummings.

As you have heard, Elijah rose from modest beginnings to become one of the greatest public servants that our country has seen. Elijah always did what he believed was right, which earned him respect and friendship on both sides of the aisle. His courage, his passion, and his integrity were undeniable to anyone who crossed his path.

Elijah inspired us regularly as one of the greatest orators in this House. He came to my district in Georgia as a guest speaker, and when he finished, everyone was in awe. Elijah's powerful voice made everyone take notice, listen intently, and then act.

America has lost a fierce warrior who was committed to doing the right thing, regardless of politics. We will always feel his absence in this House, where he spoke truth to power and passionately advocated for justice and equality for all.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman for yielding.

Truly, this is the day that the Lord has made. In spite of the fact that our hearts are heavy, we must rejoice and be glad in it because we have the opportunity to celebrate the life of our longtime friend and our colleague, Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Our Committee on Oversight and Reform, which he chaired, is one of the committees deeply involved in the impeachment inquiry. Almost every day, Republicans and Democrats are sitting in to hear testimony and ask questions which have us all in the investigation stage of the impeachment inquiry.

Elijah Cummings' legendary evenhandedness will be most missed and sought after by all who are looking for a role model and for best practices for the rare impeachment inquiry and, for that matter, hereafter.

Let us always remember our good friend, Elijah Cummings.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for again sharing his very heartfelt remarks.

This body tonight, it is very humbling to be here with each of the Members who have joined us, each one great in their own way.
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As one of the new Members here in this body, it gives me great pride to be a part of the Congressional Black Caucus and to know that each and every Member has made such significant contributions, not just to their districts, but to the entire country.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

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

The Word of the Lord says in Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

With that in mind, the people of the First Congressional District of Illinois have sent me here to extend their collective condolences to the family and friends of Elijah Eugene Cummings and to the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of Maryland.

Elijah loved the Lord because the Lord first loved Elijah. How do I know this? I know this from the many times that we had discussions. Rarely in those discussions did we talk about anything other than the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how good the Lord has been to both Elijah and myself. I just stopped by the well of the U.S. House of Representatives this evening to tell somebody that whatever the Lord is good and his mercy endures forever.

Our Nation shall surely miss the love, the compassion, the strength, the brilliance, the tireless dedication, and the amazing words of Elijah Eugene Cummings.

The Lord proclaims now to all who would hear his praise for Elijah and Elijah's work: Well done, my good and faithfull servant. Well done.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman RUSH for his encouraging words, the Word that we know we needed, not just the day that we heard of the passing of Chairman Cummings, but the Word that continues to sustain us each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, one of the big five, as we call them here in the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the chorus of admirers of Elijah Cummings and to mourn the passing of our distinguished colleague.

Congressman Cummings served with passion for the rule of law, and always governed in a respectful manner, even when dealing with some of the most critical and controversial issues facing Congress today.

It is rightly noted that when Congressman Cummings spoke, he spoke with moral authority, frequently reminding us that "we are better than that."

He was an invaluable leader for civil rights, justice, and fundamental fairness. He believed in the promise of America and served as an example of it every single day. We are better off because of his leadership in Congress and the tremendous contributions he made over his life of service.

Mr. Speaker, I send my deepest condolences to Dr. Maya Rockeymore Cummings, his three children, and all of his loved ones. I hope they will find comfort in knowing that so many people across the country are mourning their loss with them.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am happy to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Elijah Cummings.

We all have at least one Elijah Cummings story. Some of us have a lot more. But more importantly, it is how Elijah lived that we have to pay tribute to.

Elijah demonstrated every day not only that he loved the people of Baltimore, but he loved this great country. If we can just pattern our lives after Elijah Cummings’ past, we will be fine.

To a great warrior, a great patriot, a great leader who, obviously, in a lot of our minds was taken too short, we say God bless you. We understand that if we had anything to do with it, we would have kept you here. But it just wasn’t in the plan.

So, departing, I say to you, as well as my colleagues: Elijah, we appreciate you. Your job here in this Congress speaks volumes. God bless you.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for coming to the floor and speaking on behalf of his experience and friendship with Chairman Cummings.

As the gentleman said, he really demonstrated a life worth living and an example, an embodiment, definitely for young people and young leaders of what they should do to exemplify a good role model.

I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, to Elijah’s wonderful wife and my friend, and to his children and family, we have said over and over again how much we will miss him, but we realize how much you will miss him.

Elijah Cummings was my classmate. He came in during a special election, but we always viewed each other as classmates coming in the mid-1990s.

His spirit was so strong that he was able to provide his own internal strength and also to provide strength for others.

I think we knew about Elijah’s parents more than anyone else. He talked about Robert and Ruth Cummings not only as sharecroppers but as preachers, and he talked about how they poured into his life.

Elijah was a successful man though he started with a designation that he was slow in school. He was a Phi Beta Kappa, becoming Maryland’s first African American speaker pro temp.

But what I know most about him is that Elijah would not want us to talk about all of those successes. He probably wouldn’t even want us to talk about his being the powerful chairman of the Oversight and Reform Committee or talk about his work in criminal justice and ban the box that we worked together on, or even when he took a whole group of Members over to Baltimore when he first got elected because of the scourge of HIV/AIDS. He wanted us to see it; he wanted us to talk with him; and he wanted to show his community that he was going to fight on their behalf.

What I love most about Elijah was that he mentored people anywhere he could find them on the floor of the House. We joined each other in wanting to mentor to young interns, and every time the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation called him to speak to the interns—I remember a time when John, Elijah, and I spoke to the class, and Elijah lifted them beyond anyone's expansion or belief.

Elijah Cummings gave his maiden speech, and I want to give his words when he first came to the United States Congress. When I saw these, I said how powerful and potent.

Elijah Cummings said: I only have a minute, 60 seconds in it. Forced upon me, I did not choose it, but I know that I must use it. Give account if I abuse it. Suffer, if I lose it. Only a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it.

So, as I close my remarks, being reminded that Elijah would not want us to give his whole litany of success, I began to think of the speech of Dr. Martin Luther King on the night before his death, when he reminded people that he wanted to be known as someone who tried to help someone. He said he feared no man.

When Elijah spoke and worked, and when he worked with Republicans, he did not fear them, but he brought them to him. He made peace, while he also fought for justice.

In the words of Dr. King in that last speech, he said: "When people get caught up with that which is right and they are willing to sacrifice for it, there is no stopping point short of victory."

I believe in this life our dear friend secured real victory for his people and his constituents, a victory for those who believe in justice and equality, and a victory for the people of the United States of America.

So, Elijah, the minute you had, the minute that was given to you, you did
Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. Horsford).

Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Lee).

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Lee), who is another great leader. She is one of the co-chairs of the Steering and Policy Committee for the House Democrats and a true champion on so many issues, particularly for women, children, and families.

Ms. LEE of California. First, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I also want to thank our chair, Congresswoman Karen Bass, and Stacey Plaskett for leading this beautiful tribute tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in honor of the life and legacy of Chairman Elijah Cummings, who was a great statesman and leader, but also a kind and gentle human being who led with both his head and his heart.

My heart is heavy tonight as I offer my deepest condolences to my friends, Ms. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, the son of Elijah Cummings, and Ms. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, the daughter of Elijah Cummings.
entire family, his staff, and the people of Baltimore, whom he loved and served with courage and boldness.

Yes, he was a person of deep faith, which was that guiding light in everything that he did. Elijah was the son of two pastors, and he took care of his mother and his father in their last years on Earth.

Elijah had been a friend and adviser to me since I first came to Congress. When I was first elected, he gave me much-needed encouragement, knowing that I was to run a special election, replacing my mentor and my friend, the late great Congressman Ron Dellums, who had some big shoes to fill.

But Elijah told me early on, he said: Hey, you have got to step out there, carve out your own agenda, and get out there and do your job, what you need to do to serve the people of your district.

He wanted to help me. We talked about how he could do that. He was the first Member of Congress—and he was so eager to do this—to visit my district early on in my tenure.

We had a town meeting on gun safety, mass incarceration, and criminal justice reform. I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, my constituents were in awe. They also send their condolences this evening.

This was a defining moment for me as he lifted me up as a new Member of Congress in my district in a way that no one had, and he continued to support me and advise me on many important decisions.

Also, like Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, I had the privilege to be with Congressman Cummings in his district several times. The first time was when he invited CBC members to visit his HIV/AIDS clinics and other community organizations. It was so remarkable to see how people not only respected him as a great Member of Congress, but how he had connected with him as their brother who never lost touch with the people.

So Elijah will be remembered as a man who pulled no punches, was authentic to the core, and a champion for our democracy. The greatest tribute to his work will be for all of us to continue to stand and defend our democracy with the same passion, vigor, and determination that he had.

I will miss Elijah's wise counsel, his words of encouragement, his support, and his leadership.

May his legacy live on, and may he rest in peace and power.

I will miss you so much, Elijah. May God bless.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her heartfelt remarks.

Each one of us can tell our own story of our experiences and opportunities that we had to share with Chairman Cummings, and that is really the opportunity that we have tonight during this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), who is another person with a great legacy, who continues to serve his constituents with dignity.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Nevada for yielding.

He was my chairman, my colleague, and my friend: the late great Elijah Cummings.

I not only had the good fortune of serving with Chairman Cummings. I also was blessed to get to know him well over the years. He was a powerful and passionate advocate for the city of Baltimore, which he loved so dearly.

I want to say that thousands of my constituents back in St. Louis have posted messages of condolence for Chairman Cummings' family. One of the most moving messages simply said this:

One of the nicest things that can be said about a man is that we believed him.

And that is the truth. Chairman Cummings fearlessly spoke truth to power. He was determined to defeat an opponent, but he was also willing to challenge us, to lift up this institution, and to give the American people a government that is as good and decent as they are.

I think the true measure of what Elijah Cummings meant to us was that, early last Thursday, when word of his untimely death began to spread, there were as many Republican tears as Democratic tears mourning the passing of this very good man in the spirit of compassion and reconciliation the Lord has endowed within each of us if we have the wisdom to seek it.

I want to extend my deepest sympathy to Chairman Cummings' family, and I want them to know that I share their grief. I have lost a brother, an American hero, and a true leader of this House.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for coming to the floor to share his remarks.

Many condolences have been shared from the Oversight and Reform Committee, from those who served on that committee, those who worked with Chairman Cummings on his staff. He was known to have one of the best work ethics in Congress.

As his staff assisted in getting him out of the chair, he looked at me that day and said: “I’m so sick. I love you, man.”

I say to you tonight, Congressman Cummings: I love you; we love you; and America loves you.

Mr. Speaker, we celebrate a life well-lived. Elijah Eugene Cummings belongs to the ages.

Rest in peace, my brother, rest in peace.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BUTTERFIELD again for sharing his stories of friendship and how Chairman Cummings really touched his life as an example to so many here in this body.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), who is my good friend.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleague, Chairwoman Bass, and our colleagues for this evening’s Special Order hour, for providing this moment for us to reflect.

Let me start by saying, on behalf of myself, the Clarke family, and the people of the Ninth Congressional District of New York, I rise today to reflect upon the life and the legacy of the great chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, Chairman Elijah Cummings, and express my heartfelt and deepest condolences to his wife, Maya Rockeymoore, his family, friends, colleagues, and staff. Our great Nation is mourning and is in shock over the loss of a great man.

As one of seven children born to parents who were sharecroppers and, just as important, or maybe more importantly, pastors of the Gospel, it is safe to say that Chairman Cummings embodied the epitome of our ancestors’ wildest dreams and most fervent prayers.
Chairman Cummings represented Baltimore, Maryland, with devotion, pride, dignity, and integrity, and dedicated his career to ensuring that his beloved community was never marginalized.

As chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Mr. Cummings used his voice to protect our democracy, to protect our civil liberties, and indeed, our humanity and our Constitution until his very last breath, and we will forever be indebted to his lifelong service.

He will be remembered as a steadfast, former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, an advocate of the Congressional Black Caucus and black communities across this Nation who used his voice to elevate our colleagues in leadership positions and to mentor black staffers.

I recall when I was elected to the House of Representatives in the year 2006, I heard from all of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus and black communities across this Nation who used his voice to elevate our colleagues in leadership positions and to mentor black staffers.

I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. RICHMOND) that happens to be my good and faithful servant.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his reflections of our colleague, Elijah Cummings.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, a good friend and colleague.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the delegate from the Virgin Islands for cohosting this Special Order in honor of Elijah Cummings.

We all ask that question to the Lord: "What is required of me?"

And the answer is simple: Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God.

That is exactly what Chairman Elijah Cummings did. He fought for justice every day, not just in the halls of Congress, not just in courtrooms, sometimes it was on the streets of Baltimore. When the community was protesting, he was out there fighting for justice.

He loved mercy. He fought for criminal justice reform every ounce and minute of his life, because he knew that we have to give people a second chance and that, but for the grace of God, who knows where anybody would be.

And then last, it was to walk humbly. Many people don’t know this, but Elijah Cummings was one of the first Members of Congress to endorse me, and that was described as the most memorable moment of his life.

And the one thing that comforts me, and I am sure the entire Black Caucus, is that we know in our hearts that last Thursday, at 2:30 a.m., we know that Elijah Cummings heard these words: Well done, my good and faithful servant.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those words.

Mr. RICHMOND, that happens to be my good and faithful servant—Micah 6:8. That, I believe, was the scripture that the Lord gave me when I was in law school. I recognize that I had the honor of being a member of the committee in which Elijah Cummings sat, was the chair, and I was on that committee for 5 years now.

Mr. Cummings was a mentor to me. And to those who had a chance to interact with him and knew him more than just as a Member of Congress, he was a man of God. He lived and worked out his faith.

I think that scripture, Micah 6:8 exemplifies how he lived his life. It really exemplifies his Christian walk.
He was a man of great wisdom. And although he needed little protection, when I was on that committee, I viewed my role as not only being a consummate prosecutor and counselor but being on the front line. I remember I called and told him, I was a little afraid that he was sitting there at his desk, his head down, being written off by the press. And he always said, “I am not going to take it, I am a fighter.” And he said, “You got to remember, the American people have no respect for the press. The American people have no respect for the media. But the American people have respect for those who protect the country.”

Elijah Cummings was a fighter. He was a fighter for the people. He was a fighter for the American Dream. He fought for what was right, for what was just. He fought for the American people. He fought for the American way of life. He fought for the American Dream.

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to him with a litany of questions. He never turned me away. He was always receptive and always considerate. He would eventually explain to me how much he appreciated that I had put thought into the policies that I wanted to implement while serving in Congress.

It was then that this great man actually saw that I really cared for people, and he instructed me to continue doing the work because, when you really care, your constituents will see it and will applaud it.

When I came to him during the Flint water crisis and told him we needed to look into this because people were being hurt, and children were being physically damaged, he was so determined to get to the truth.

I watched him serve in the majority and in the minority, and there were many times when this chairman, my Chairman Cummings, became the voice of reason within the Caucus and at the helm of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

He was a consensus builder. He cut to the chase. And he was the person who worked across the aisle, never, ever putting anyone before the American people.

I will miss his bigger-than-life presence in our meetings. I will miss that booming voice, heaving incredible words of wisdom during our committee hearings. I will miss the intelligent and passionate way he formulates his observations that he would hurl at any of the combative witnesses.

I will miss the man who believed in the American experience, and he fought for this democracy with his last breath.

Most of all, I will miss the considerate, giant gentleman who was my mentor, Elijah Cummings.

This week, as we bid farewell to Baltimore’s native son, I know he will be dancing with the angels, smiling down on us, saying to continue the fight and keep the faith because our democracy is worth the fight.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for those powerful words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), representing Philadelphia.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, under the leadership of KAREN BASS and both colleagues here tonight, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT and STEVE HORSFORD, for their leadership.

Last week, I lost a friend and a colleague, and Baltimore, Maryland, and the United States lost a civil rights activist, a tireless activist and leader.

I had the privilege of knowing the chairman for many years, since we both served our State legislatures before coming to Congress. We represented districts. I represented a district in Philadelphia, and he represented a district in Baltimore. He got elected about 1982. I got elected in 1981.

We both had similar challenges. He did in Baltimore. I did in Philadelphia.

A few months ago, I saw the chairman here on the House floor, and I complimented him for being relentless in his commitment to civic participation.

I had the pleasure of sitting with him on my very first State of the Union Address. That day, we had the chance to talk about discussions and challenges that we both faced in major urban cities.

Today, I am glad I said something when I had the chance. I told him that I loved him. I told him that I loved him for all the things he had been doing and all the relentlessness he has shown.

He kept the faith because our democracy is intact.

So, Mr. Chairman, rest in power.

We have to continue this fight.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. EVANS, as one gentleman from a great American city paying tribute to another man from a great American city, as native sons.

I thank him for those kind words and for the fight that we are all undertaking on behalf of the people whom we represent in this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS), who had the honor of being on the Oversight and Reform Committee with Mr. Cummings, for her remarks about that great American.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Dr. King once said the true measure of a man is not how he behaves in moments of comfort and convenience, but how he behaves in times of challenge and controversy.

Last Congress, I had the honor of serving with Chairman Cummings on the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and he didn’t thank Mr. EVANS for the easy way out. He never ran from controversy or challenge.

You see, Mr. Cummings was a true leader. Life is all about choices, Mr. Speaker, and true leaders have to make a lot of them.

We can live in fear of what man will say or do to us, or we can stand up and speak out for what we know in our hearts is right.

Elijah Cummings never failed to stand up and speak out. You see, he was a true leader.

We can follow the crowd no matter how wrong the crowd may be, or we can choose to be a drum major for justice.

Elijah Cummings chose to be a drum major for justice.

Mr. Speaker, we can close our minds and our hearts, mentor no one, and share nothing with anyone. We can make life’s journey all about us, or we can impart knowledge and wisdom, and look out for someone else and have their back.

Elijah Cummings was a mentor, a role model. He cared about us. And every day, we knew it.

Elijah Cummings had the Nation’s back. For that, we are forever grateful to Chairman Elijah Cummings for a life well lived.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentlewoman for those powerful words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), who also sat on the Oversight and Reform Committee under Mr. Cummings.

Ms. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I would like to begin by offering my deepest prayers to Congressman Cummings’ wife and family and the Baltimore community. He was a solid voice of conscience and always offered a steady hand and sound wisdom.

He was one of the giants among us here in Congress.

Congressman Cummings was born the son of sharecroppers from Clarendon County, South Carolina, a county where children were forced to walk miles to attend segregated schools. The refusal of Clarendon County to provide buses for the Black children in that district became the court case Briggs v. Elliott, one of the five cases that ultimately decided under the shared designation of Brown v. Board of Education.

Remarkably, Congressman Cummings never forgot his roots. He spent his entire life as a fierce champion for justice and humanity. He boldly fought for civil and human rights with the strength given him by God.

His humility, his compassion, and his commitment were nothing short of inspiring.

I remember the times I would come in here on the floor and I would sit down next to him and he’d say: How are you doing today, kid?

And I would say: Well, you know, it is kind of rough being a freshman.

And he said: That is okay. Take care of your family. Stay focused. Stay clean. Do your work. Stay in the district, and you will be fine.

Representative Cummings once said: When we are dancing with the angels, the question will be asked, what did we do to make sure that we kept our democracy intact?

Well, Representative Cummings, you moved mountains for democracy.

And so, now, as he dances with the angels in Heaven, we honor his lifelong fight for our democracy, his towering legacy, and his unwavering dedication to the United States of America and to the world. He will truly be missed.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY), who also sat on the Oversight and Reform Committee under Mr. Cummings.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia and the gentleman from Nevada and our chair, KAREN BASS, for organizing this Special Order.

What an honor and a privilege to spend my early months as a freshman Member of Congress in close proximity to a titan for justice and a force for good, someone who spent several decades as a truth-teller and a justice-
seeker, who, in his role as chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, knew that the best disinfectant is sunlight, and he shone a light on every injustice.

He was a patriot, tireless in his efforts to preserve our democracy, and a statesman of uncommon grace. He challenged each of us to appeal to our better angels, to be decent, to be fair, to comport ourselves with reverence and dignity this institution demands and our country deserves.

He was consistent and did that even in the face of great physical fatigue and, some days, perhaps, even a weary spirit, in the face of injustice and indignities. He often reminded us that it was our charge on the Committee on Oversight and Reform to be an efficient and effective pursuit of the truth.

His body has transitioned, but his instructive words ring resoundingly and true. He was a selfless servant and leader until the end.

One of the final pursuits of justice we took on together was to maintain access to lifesaving healthcare for our immigrant neighbors in the medical deferred action program. His staffer, Anthony, drove through the night to Baltimore so the chairman could sign subpoenas, advancing our fight together.

Truly, in life, all you have is your name and your word, and when it comes to Elijah Cummings, both were good.

Until the very end, the chairman would stop my staff and me in the hallways, and he would say: Are you keeping up the fight?

He knew the fight was greater than one room or one mission or one legislative act. The pursuit of justice is not a box you simply check. So we continue in that pursuit, following in the footsteps of a giant.

No one can fill your shoes, but we will pick up the torch and press forward.

So I thank you for that. I thank you for everything that he has been to all of us.

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

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for 30 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and my privilege to continue the CBC’s Special Order hour, and we are going to call this portion CBC and friends.

It is my honor now to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), one who has served alongside the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings throughout his tenure here and I know would like to bring forth his very special remarks and reflections at this time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise, yes, to mourn his death, but I also rise to celebrate his life, because it was a life worthy of great celebration.

I rise understanding that, yes, he was brilliant. He was a Phi Beta Kappa with some 13 doctoral degrees, but he did not allow his brilliance to outshine his goodness.

His goodness was such that he was one who cared for the least, the last, and the lost. He was there for those whom we consider the least among us, those who were not born into plenty but, rather, into poverty.

He was there for those who were the last, the least, and the first fired. He fought for jobs for them.

He was there for those who are lost, lost in poverty in the richest country in the world, and he fought to elevate their lives; those lost in chemical abuse, he was there to help them acquire healthcare.

He was truly a person who made a difference in the lives of people whom he never had the opportunity to meet and greet.

So I mourn his passing, but I celebrate his living.

And while I am sure there are many who will say that he left too soon, I can only say this: We had him for 68 years, and I am grateful for that 68 years.

God bless you, dear brother. You were a wise warrior and a seeker of peace. And while you may not be with us physically, your spirit will endure forever.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. COHEN), my classmate and colleague, a member of the Oversight and Reform Committee and the Judiciary Committee, to give his remarks.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was just walking back to my office and I saw on the news to this memorial service, this celebration of life, and I wanted to come listen. It has been inspiring for me, so many appropriate remarks made about this great man.

I feel privileged just to stand here at this podium where he spoke and next to his photograph just as I felt privileged to know him and become a friend, and where we spoke over here when he was in the wheelchair and in the Speaker’s lobby before votes and during votes.

When I was home last weekend, more people came up to me in Memphis, and people on social media, and expressed their condolences, their appreciation of his life and their knowledge that the Congress had lost a person who was irreplaceable.

Elijah Cummings was one of the great people that I have had the opportunity to interact with in my life, in Congress, and in other places.

Truly, a giant has fallen. He had grace. He had knowledge. He had judgment. He had character.

It has been spoken, and I remember seeing him on television walking in Baltimore at some risk to himself, during the riots, to help bring calm to Baltimore, leadership where he put his community first and his safety second.

He talked about: We are better than this. Well, we are better than this, and, hopefully, one day, we will be as good as him.

He knew that we were only here for a minute and you should make that time worthwhile, and he made it worthwhile.

Friday, a week ago, the last Friday that Elijah was in our caucus, we had a caucus conference call, and the discussion turned to the end was about the Congress’ issuance of subpoenas and the attempt to get them enforced through the courts.

I believe Elijah was the last person to speak on the call, and when he spoke, it was like hearing the voice of God. He said that these cases will go through the courts, and they will be appealed, and they will eventually be appealed to
Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for sharing his insight and his own personal experiences with our dear colleague, Elijah Cummings, who touched so many lives. Members here in Congress, the members of their family, our own constituents.

Like Mr. COHEN, so many people in my district were reaching out and expressing their condolences and sharing their stories with me this past week. I attended a church service where, again, people talked about Elijah Cummings. His influence has gone far and wide.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), another colleague and also another classmate of mine, who has joined us and would like to share his sentiments, his insights into the life of Elijah Cummings and his interactions with our dear colleague.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my classmate for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it has been so wonderful to be sitting here listening to members of the Congressional Black Caucus talk about their work, their friendship, their respect for a giant who walked among us, and of course, that is Elijah Cummings.

The Congressional Black Caucus is regarded by myself included as the conscience of this Congress. And there was no better representative of that conscience than Elijah Cummings, who served for a couple of years as the chair of the Black Caucus. All of us who served with Elijah are better for it and have fond memories and great appreciation for our friendship and admiration for him.

I was quite lucky because I have served with Elijah on the Oversight and Reform Committee for 13 years. So in those committees, along with you my friend, Representative CLARKE, we really got to see Elijah face a lot of very tough situations.

I am going to make it a little bit personal here about some of my vivid experiences I have had with Elijah. Elijah and I worked very hard on the drug bill that is now going to be named in his honor to provide the government with the ability to negotiate lower prices so that the representatives and we all represent, can get the drugs they need.

Shortly after President Trump was elected, I think it was April of 2017, the President invited Elijah to the White House to talk about prescription drugs. Since I had been working with Elijah on this for years, Elijah invited me. I kind of crashed the party.

Number one, how many of our colleagues would invite a junior member to a White House meeting just because the two of us had been working on the issue together? I would like to say all of us would. Elijah did.

We went to the White House, and we talked a lot with the President about the prescription drug bill. But in the course of the conversation, the President expressed dismay about where Elijah lived. This was before the President was saying the horrible things about that community with rats and roaches and all the other things. He was genuinely dismayed that a person in Congress could live in a community that the President just didn’t think that he could ever live.

And I remember Elijah was dismayed that anyone, even the President of the United States, didn’t understand how wonderful the people were in that community, how dignified they were, how they faced adversity every single day, how they helped one another get up when somebody fell down. Elijah was astonished. He lived in the best place in the world. That was what Elijah conveyed to the President. And Elijah conveyed that he represented the best people in the world. That was Elijah Cummings.

I remember the topic was prescription drugs, and Elijah was quite disciplined. You know, the topic is the topic, we will get to the business at hand. But the question of voter fraud came up, and in the way that only Elijah can do, where he is not intimidated but he is not showing off—and it is a fine balance—he just said in his direct way, we don’t have a problem with voter fraud. We have a problem with voter suppression.

And to be in the presence of this man in the Oval Office where there was no artifice to Elijah’s presence, there was no sense from Elijah of disrespect for the office, certainly, even though he disagreed with the President on so many things, but it was no different for Elijah than if he was in a local diner in Baltimore talking to the people he represented; he was direct, to the point, and empathetic to the concerns of the people that he represented.

So it was just a wonderful opportunity for me to see a great man in action. It is how he lived. It wasn’t like he had to think about it. It wasn’t like he had to calculate anything. He was present in that moment. He was present in that moment as he was present every moment of the day. It was there for the people he represented. He conveyed the immense appreciation and respect for the dignity of the people and the humbleness that he felt that he had been given this opportunity to be their Member of Congress, a special man.

The memory of Elijah for all of us will sustain us through difficult times, and may his example be the one we aspire to follow.

I thank my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for this wonderful tribute to a wonderful leader from the ranks of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Vermont for sharing his insight as a member of the committee led by the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings.

As we wind down here this evening, there are a couple of things that have been a running theme among our colleagues this evening, and it is sort of the quiet thunder, the strength, the dignity, the integrity of the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings. And I thought about the fact that still waters run deep. He wasn’t a boisterous person, a showboater, but he knew how to command the moral authority that moves a Nation. Whether it was using the civil rights law, it was the children of Flint or the children of the border, whether it was preserving this democracy and making sure that the rule of law stands above all else in the Constitution of the United States, we could turn to our North Star, Elijah E. Cummings to be a champion, to be a voice, to be the compass that led this Congress into the next level of integrity that we need to move this Nation forward.

And so, we are honored this evening that so many colleagues have taken the time to be here in tribute to the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings. We again want to, on behalf of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus and colleagues of the wider body, express our heartfelt condolences to Maya Rockeymoore, the family, the constituents of Maryland’s Seventh District, as well as the very dedicated staff of the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings.

Congressman Cummings will never be forgotten. As I stated in my comments, we are legacy keepers, and so everything that we have been taught and learned from Elijah will be applied in the days ahead as he would have us do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?
There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great leader, legislator and statesman who served his country with love and pride. Congressman Cummings was a man of principle and unyielding resolve to be the voice of the people; Congressman Elijah Eugene Cummings.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Congressman Cummings maintained an unbreakable bond to the community that raised him, fighting for the people he loved every day.

From his days as Speaker pro tempore of the Maryland House of Delegates, to becoming Chairman of the powerful House Committee on Oversight and Reform of the U.S. Congress, Congressman Cummings defended the less fortunate by ensuring federal government programs were meeting the needs of the people of his district and his country. He became a powerful voice for equality and opportunity, a tireless advocate for affordable healthcare, quality education, civil rights, and criminal justice reform.

Congressman Cummings committed himself to civil rights advocacy and social justice. He was known as the gentleman who "will not yield" when it comes to educating our children, protecting communities of color, and mitigating the effects of poverty on American families. As his colleague, it was no surprise to see him take to the streets to extinguishe the flames of outrage sparked by racism and excessive violence by law enforcement in his hometown. He will forever be remembered as a calming spirit in a time of civil unrest in the city of Baltimore.

Congressman Cummings' lifetime of public service was defined by compassion, integrity, and a commitment to empowering the people he was sworn to represent. His presence will be sorely missed. His legacy of leadership will continue to be an inspiration to us all. It was an honor to know him, and call him friend.

Elijah was a man of great and unwavering faith. I can imagine, as he was making his transition early last Thursday morning, he sang the words of the old hymn, "Oh, I want to see Jesus face to face; There to sing forever of His saving grace; On the streets of glory let me lift my voice; Cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice."

Farewell my friend. Another soldier gone home.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, last week, we lost the earthly man Elijah Cummings. Most of the country and many around the world knew him as a member of Congress from the city of Baltimore. He was a fierce fighter for the forgotten, a sworn opponent of hunger, poverty, abuse of children and a relentless advocate for civil rights. Chairman Cummings was a driven man, a person who pushed for what was right because he believed in the supreme responsibility of elected officials to advocate for those we represent.

I have the honor of being a member of the Committee; I chaired for 5 years. Congressman Cummings was a mentor to me. I, and those who had a chance to interact with him knew him as more than a Member of Congress. More importantly, he was a man of God. He lived and worked in Congress on Christian values.

He was a man of great wisdom and, although he needed little protection, I viewed my role on the Committee as not only being the consummate prosecutor and counselor but as a frontline and protector to this gentleman. With a booming voice and speaking cadence that hinted of the pulpit—his parents were preachers—Chairman Cummings was a compelling figure on Capitol Hill for more than two decades, repeatedly re-elected by voters in Maryland's 7th Congressional District, which covers much of Baltimore, including a section of the city with more than its share of social problems. He campaigned tirelessly for stricter gun control laws and was a consummate voice for those addicted to drugs. He was at times rough, but always respectful. But, when it was as Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform—the panel charged with maintaining integrity in government—that Chairman Cummings may have left his most legacy.

When it came to the notion of democracy, Chairman Cummings, in his speeches—particularly those he gave in the past few years—insistently invoked it, and not in the inert way that elected officials tend to. He spoke of democracy as something vital and fragile and in danger of having to be safeguarded for future generations. When he spoke of HR-1, the exhaustive election-protection bill that the Democrats introduced in January as their first piece of legislation of this Congress, he mentioned his ninety-two-year-old mother, who had died a year earlier. She was a former sharecropper, who implored him, "Do not let them take our votes away from us." He viewed his Chairmanship of the House Oversight and Reform Committee as part of the battle to protect voting rights. What remains clear is the void that Chairman Cummings left in his district and his country. This would have been the case at nearly any point in his quarter century in Congress. But it's even more acute in this one. In a fiery bit of oration delivered at the introduction of HR-1, he pledged to "fight to the death" in defense of voting and, thereby, democracy. It was a promise that he made good on.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the life of an honorable statesman and dear friend, Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Congressman Cummings graduated from Baltimore City College High School before attending Howard University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. At Howard, he served as the president of the student government and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest academic honor society in the United States. He continued his studies at the University of Maryland School of Law and went on to be admitted to the Maryland Bar Association.

Congressman Cummings was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1982, where he served for 16 years. As a Member of the House of Delegates, he was elected as the first African American Speaker Pro Tempore in the state's history and was selected as Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus. Following the conclusion of his service in the state legislature, Congressman Cummings was entrusted to represent the constituents of the 7th District of Maryland in the United States House of Representatives, where he had served during his lifetime.

During his tenure in the House of Representatives, Congressman Cummings championed issues including civil rights, access to affordable healthcare, and congressional oversight, to name a few. He has served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus in the 108th Congress and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. At the time of his passing, he was Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and a senior Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Congressman Cummings was a faithful member of the Baltimore community above everything else. He served on many local boards including the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors, the University of Maryland Board of Advisors, and the SEED School of Maryland Board of Directors. In addition, he was an Honorary Board Member of KIPP Baltimore Schools and the Baltimore School for the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I join with Members of Congress in extending our sympathies to Congressman Cummings' wife, Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, his family, and to all who had the great pleasure of knowing him. The legacy of Congressman Cummings will endure in this great institution, as those that live in the hearts of others never truly perish. May he rest in peace.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Congressman Elijah Cummings, a friend, mentor, patriot and titan of the House of Representatives.

Congressman Cummings was a giant among us who led with his heart and governed with the love of his district and our country. He worked until his very last breath for the good of our nation because he believed in the power of the American people to make our country a better place for our children to live and prosper.

After all, Congressman Cummings knew firsthand the power of the American dream. The son of sharecroppers, he grew up to graduate Phi Beta Kappa from Howard University, receive his law degree from the University of Maryland and go on to serve his beloved home of Baltimore in both the state legislature and in Congress.

Day in and day out, Congressman Cummings fought to ensure our government worked for the people, providing tools to help Americans succeed and the opportunities to make their dreams a reality. He understood that patriotism is not looking at our nation's past through rosy glasses and a revisionist history, but rather that it is having the courage to examine more closely those areas that are broken and believing in the power of our system to fix them.

Social justice was in his blood—when he was just 11 years old, he and his friends worked to integrate a segregated swimming pool in his native Baltimore. I was honored to work with him closely to ensure every American is able to cast his or her ballot on election day. And he fought passionately against forces that undermine the integrity of our democracy and the principles upon which our nation is founded.

Congressman Cummings will be forever missed, but his legacy lives on and continues to inspire us to live our lives for the benefit of others—and the good of our nation.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:
Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.
Ms. HAALAND (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of flight canceled.
Mr. MCEACHIN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for September 9 until October 23.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 6, 116TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, DC, October 21, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 302(c) of House Resolution 6 (116th Congress) I hereby submit the attached statement “setting forth the aggregate amounts expended by the Office of General Counsel on outside counsel and other experts pursuant to this title on a quarterly basis” for the quarter beginning on July 1, 2019 and ending on September 30, 2019, for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFRENE. Chairperson.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS (H. RES. 6)

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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. 1196.—An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1715 Linnevar Drive in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, as the “Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building”.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 22, 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. 4406, the Small Business Development Centers Improvement 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.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2680. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s notification of its 2019 compensation program adjustments, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1833(a); Public Law 102-238, Sec. 110 (105 Stat. 525); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2681. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management Team, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s Major notice — Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program Average Fee Rate, Annual Renewal Fee, Rural Area Definition, and Funding Priority for Fiscal Year 2020; and Water and Waste Disposal Programs Guaranteed Rural Area Definition and Funding Reservation for Fiscal Year 2020 received October 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 Financial Services.


2683. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, “Evaluation of the Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration (MEPD); Report to Congress (ETC)”, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, Sec. 1204(b); (130 Stat. 1275); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2684. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled “Harmonization of Differences Between the Department of Health and Human Services’ Human Subject Regulations and the Food and Drug Administration’s Human Subject Regulations”, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 209 note; Public Law 114-256, Sec. 3923; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2685. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (17-5) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0567; FRL-10000-42] (RIN: 2070-AB17) received October 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 Energy and Commerce.


2687. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department’s report concerning the period from July 7, 2019, on the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iran Resolution, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501) and 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 102-1, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 1501A-422); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2688. A letter from the Acting Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition and Support, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s commitment to the reporting requirements of Section 271(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13657; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2689. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. RSAT-19-681, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2690. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. RSAT-16-5363, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2691. A letter from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting notification that the Annual Report on Commercial Activities at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Complex for Fiscal Year 2017 has been posted on the Open Government page of the Board’s public website, pursuant to 51 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-278, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2692. A letter from the Associate Director for Legislative Affairs, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Commerce, transmitting a copy of the report regarding the Department of Commerce’s report to Congress on Fiscal Year 2019, pursuant to 51 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-278, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2693. A letter from the Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Nonprocurement Contingency Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2019 and 2020 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish; Correction [Docket No.: 180831813-9332-01; FRL-10002-03] (RIN: 0648-XG471) received October 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2514 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union. Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4617 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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:

Pursuant to H.R. 4776. A bill to promote innovation in financial services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, H.R. 4767. A bill to support the Secretary of Education in establishing a competitive grant program to award grants to local educational agencies for the purpose of addressing the social determinants of health in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. FORTEBNERRY, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. CRENshaw):

H.R. 4777. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to take steps to ensure election integrity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H. Res. 647. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 448. Resolution honoring the lives, work, and sacrifice of Joseph Curseen, Jr., and Thomas Morris, Jr., the 2 United States Postal Service employees who died as a result of their contact with anthrax while working at the United States Postal Facility located at 900 Brentwood Road, NE, Washington, DC, during the anthrax attack in the fall of 2001; United States Postal Service employees, who have continued to work diligently in service to the people of the United States notwithstanding the anthrax attack; as well as all Americans who died and the 17 who became ill in the attack; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. BAKER):

H. Res. 469. A resolution expressing the support of the United States for the grassroots development programs the Inter-American Bureau on Education has undertaken for the past 50 years; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. McHENRY:

H.R. 487. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence . . . of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. BIRD:

H.R. 4771. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 1 “The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. ROY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 4772. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 4773. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 4774. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 4775. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4776. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 4777. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3: Mr. JORRES of California, Mrs. SCHRIER, and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 4: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 510: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. DRAH, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. CRENshaw.

H.R. 553: Mr. DUDETTE of Florida, Mr. RUPER of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KNISH.

H.R. 566: Mr. POLANCO and Mr. CAVIN.

H.R. 649: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Ms. GONZALEZ-Colon of Puerto Rico.

H.R. 435: Mr. EVANS and Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 464: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 461: Mr. DAVID of New York and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 5: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. DRAH, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. CRENshaw.

H.R. 553: Mr. DUDETTE of Florida, Mr. RUPER of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KNISH.

H.R. 566: Mr. POLANCO and Mr. CAVIN.

H.R. 649: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Ms. GONZALEZ-Colon of Puerto Rico.

H.R. 435: Mr. EVANS and Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 464: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 510: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. DRAH, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. CRENshaw.

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H.R. 510: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. DRAH, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. CRENshaw.

H.R. 553: Mr. DUDETTE of Florida, Mr. RUPER of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KNISH.

H.R. 566: Mr. POLANCO and Mr. CAVIN.

H.R. 649: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Ms. GONZALEZ-Colon of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 4745: Mr. Long.
H.J. Res. 2: Ms. Tlaib, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Ms. Mucarsel-Powell, Mr. Petersen, and Ms. Pingree.
H.J. Res. 76: Ms. Craig.
H. Con. Res. 32: Mr. King of New York and Mr. Taylor.
H. Con. Res. 50: Mr. Mast and Mr. Kinzinger.
H. Res. 23: Ms. Torres Small of New Mexico.
H. Res. 54: Ms. Torres Small of New Mexico, Mr. Meuser, and Mr. Cole.
H. Res. 138: Mr. Soto.
H. Res. 230: Mr. Fortenberry.
H. Res. 310: Mr. Crenshaw.
H. Res. 495: Ms. Bonamici.
H. Res. 515: Mr. Waltz.
H. Res. 517: Mr. Rogers of Kentucky and Ms. Porter.
H. Res. 552: Ms. Mucarsel-Powell, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Crenshaw.
H. Res. 585: Ms. Brownley of California, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Sires, and Mr. Gonzalez of Texas.
H. Res. 597: Mr. Olson.
H. Res. 604: Mr. Barr, Mr. Upton, and Mr. Graves of Georgia.
H. Res. 630: Mr. Guthrie, Mrs. Walorski, Mr. Upton, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. King of New York, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Walden.
H. Res. 639: Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Walorski, Ms. Stefanik, Mr. Steube, Mr. Hice of Georgia, Mr. Steil, and Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania.
The Senate met at 3 p.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 Master, we find shelter in Your shadow, for You are our refuge and fortress.
Lord, we place our trust in You. Rescue our Senators from the forces that seek to threaten freedom. Remind our lawmakers that nothing is impossible for You. Be with them this day as they strive to serve You and country.
We call on You because You have promised to answer us, so satisfy our longings with Your saving power.
Lord, use us all to help heal the wounds of a divided nation. We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.
Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for which time I might consume, and my guess is it will be about 15 minutes.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION
Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, first of all, my usual 1-minute speech after I open the Senate.
Last week, I spoke about consistent congressional oversight, the checks and balances of government, Congress is to make sure that the executive branch of government faithfully executes the laws under the Constitution.
In that speech, I talked about how the Democrats have ignored their own party’s use of Russian and Ukrainian government connections to undermine Trump. I noted how the Democrats’ action literally fit their own definition of collusion.
Congress ought to conduct aggressive oversight. It is a constitutional demand. However, if you want to be taken seriously in this body and by the American public, you have to be very consistent. Of course, I am pointing out some inconsistencies by the other political party.
When Democrats ignore their own leadership collusion with foreign governments, yet investigate the President after alleging he did the same, that is a lack of consistency and creates doubts about credibility.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019
Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on another subject, I recently introduced the Whistleblower Programs Improvement Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill, and I have the support of the bipartisan whistleblowers caucus.
This legislation strengthens whistleblower protection for whistleblowers working in a variety of key sectors, including our securities and commodities industries and the foreign service.
There has been a lot of talk about government whistleblowers lately that is very appropriate. It is important to remember that many of our whistleblower laws are there to protect just ordinary average Americans who don’t work in government at all. Many of the groups helped by this bill work in private industry. In some cases, they are investors or businesses who have been on the receiving end of financial fraud.
In other cases, they are employees, like stockbrokers, traders, investment advisers, administrative professionals, and other support staff, who see activities in the course of their work that they know are outright wrong, and these good people decide to speak out. Speaking out many times, causes you to eventually seek whistleblower protection.
Among these brave whistleblowers are people like the three employees at Merrill Lynch who had evidence that between 2009 and 2015 their company was misusing customer cash. Now, just think how lucky these savers were who were helped by whistleblowers willing to come out and say a wrong has been committed.
They did it this way: The whistleblowers told the Security and Exchange Commission what they knew. In doing so, they provided information critical to an investigation of the company’s practices. That investigation uncovered multiple violations of Federal rules.
Among other things, the Securities and Exchange Commission found the company was not depositing cash in reserve accounts as law required. Instead, the company was using tricky accounting maneuvers to free up billions of dollars per week and then using that money to finance its own trading practices. In the process, it is quite obvious the company was putting its customers’ cash at risk.
The Securities and Exchange Commission said: “Had Merrill Lynch failed in the midst of these trades, the firm’s customers would have been exposed to a massive shortfall in the reserve account.”
The information provided by whistleblowers led to a successful enforcement action, which involved an admission of wrongdoing by the company and a $415 million settlement.
Now, getting back to the importance of whistleblowers. If these whistleblowers hadn’t stepped forward, then, who knows, those shady accounting practices might still be going on this...
very day instead of having been stopped—stopped cold. Investors might still be facing the same unnecessary risks.

Now, there are plenty of examples from the commodities industry as well—infamously like Edward Siedle, a whistleblower who informed the Commodity Futures Trading Commission that JPMorgan Chase was failing to disclose conflicts of interest with some of its clients. Because Mr. Siedle decided to speak out about what he knew, the government collected hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements.

Whistleblowers like Mr. Siedle and the employees at Merrill Lynch deserve our gratitude, and they deserve our support. They help the Security and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to do their job, and they help to promote transparency. With transparency comes accountability—in this case, for our financial system.

I want to know that and that else they deserve. They deserve assurance that when they put their jobs and their reputation on the line, they will not be fired just for trying to do the right thing.

They deserve to know that if the government recovers money because of their disclosures, they will be able to get a decision on their award application in a timely fashion. Currently, whistleblowers don’t have these assurances.

Last year, despite strong objections that I raised in a brief to the Supreme Court in the case of Digital Realty v. Somers, the Court ruled that a whistleblower who reports violations of our Nation’s securities laws is protected from retaliation not all the time but only when he or she discloses the wrongdoing directly to the SEC.

Because of this ruling, if a whistleblower in the securities industry reports their supervisor’s supervision at place of work without also going to the SEC, they can be fired without any recourse; in other words, fired for the so-called crime they did, and what did they do? They did nothing more than what you might call the crime of committing fraud.

That is not what Congress intended when it created the current Security and Exchange Commission Whistleblower Protection Program. I voted against that bill back in 2010. It is not what I intended.

That law was supposed to protect whistleblowers who report wrongdoing. It was supposed to prevent them from being fired without just cause.

This decision has far-reaching implications that potentially affect others beyond those working in the securities industry.

Because the commodities whistleblower program was established through the same public law as the Security and Exchange Commission program, that program incorporates many of the same provisions, including similar language to that which the Supreme Court ruled on during the Digital Realty case.

That means whistleblowers in yet another federal agency can face the prospects of having anti-retaliation provisions Congress put in place a decade ago suddenly yanked away from them. That is unacceptable to me. It is a scenario that should be unacceptable to every Member of this body who cares about accountability. Everyone who reasonably believes has the ability to address their concerns. That is what companies should want. They should want it any way, to keep their public respectability.

It is also a commonsense goal that we ought to be seeking, and it is commonsense.

When an employee tells his or her company about a concern, it gives the company a chance to investigate and address the concerns, and, if necessary, to self-report any problems to the Federal regulators.

Companies that come clean and self-report almost always receive reduced penalties. That is an outcome that is better for the company, and it is obviously better for the investors.

On another matter, my bill addresses concern for securities and commodities whistleblowers. I said before that if the government recovers money as a result of a whistleblower disclosure, the whistleblower deserves at least an initial decision concerning their award application and to do it in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, my office has heard of far too many cases where whistleblowers have had to wait years to get a decision from the Securities and Exchange Commission after they apply for an award, and you apply for the award after you make the case for the government. Waiting that long is unacceptable. A year should be more than enough time for regulators to reach an initial determination regarding an award application.

My bill makes the 1-year standard law for both the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission whistleblowers. If the agency takes longer than a year to reach an initial decision, the whistleblower office must notify the chairman and the whistleblower of the cause for the delay.

Recently, I had the chance to sit down with Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Clayton to discuss these changes. My staff worked closely with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to craft the language. Now I urge all of my colleagues to support change, as well.

In addition to these changes, my bill irons out other differences between the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission whistleblower programs and ensures that whistleblowers reporting to both of these bodies have access to the same judicial remedies.

It also enables the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to hold more in the consumer protection fund. That is the fund used to pay out its awards to the whistleblower, and it allows the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use money from the fund to teach stakeholders about the opportunities that are available to them through the whistleblower program.

Finally, my bill addresses a critical gap in protections provided to Foreign Service employees through the Whistleblower Protection Act. Due to a drafting error in the law, the Office of Special Counsel has determined that it doesn’t have the authority to investigate instances of possible retaliation against Foreign Service workers when the retaliation comes in the form of a poor performance evaluation. That is an important task. Our Office of Special Counsel and an important protection that Congress has afforded to other government whistleblowers. The Foreign Service office’s people should have that as well. My bill closes that gap and makes it clear that Foreign Service workers should receive those same protections.

In closing, this bill contains commonsense changes. It reinforces and extends protections that Congress already granted in the past and ensures that whistleblowers working in different industries and in similar kinds of disclosures are equally treated and equally protected under the law. It also tells the Supreme Court of the United States: You didn’t get it right. That is something I am certain we can all get behind—straightening out the Supreme Court when they don’t follow congressional intent.

The bipartisan coalition of support for this bill is a strong testament to that. I thank my original cosponsors, Senators BALDWIN, DURBIN, and ERNST, for their enthusiastic support of this legislation. When it comes before the Senate for a vote, I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 27.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 27), providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the House wing of the Capitol for the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, late a Representative from the State of Maryland.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent 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 concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 27) was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution is printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions."

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE AND APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this week the Senate has several opportunities to make headway on important matters facing our country.

First, we will tend to a pending treaty protocol on the accession of a new member to NATO and reaffirm the importance of the alliance to the security of U.S. interests around the world. Then, we will consider yet another of our long-held views on the necessity of American leadership all around the world. But, once again, actions speak louder, and thus far our Democratic colleagues have not even been willing to get past partisanship for the sake of job No. 1—funding our military.

So this week we will offer our Democratic colleagues a clear test. Are all the declarations that they are willing to work on important legislation just empty talk or will Senate Democrats finally do their part to move the appropriations process forward?

Soon we will vote on advancing a package of domestic funding legislation. As I said last week, I am grateful to Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY for their continued conversations and hopeful they can produce a substitute amendment that will fund a number of urgent domestic priorities. Then, once we complete that work, we will vote to move forward the funding for our national defense—two big votes, two big votes, two big opportunities for our Democratic friends to show the country that the impeachment obsession leaves them any room at all for the pressing business of the American people.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2644

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2644) to impose sanctions with respect to Turkey, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PROTOCOL TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OF 1949 ON THE ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:


Pending:

McConnell amendment No. 946, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 947 (to amendment No. 946), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I want to tell you a quick story about a woman from Atlanta. Her name is Dawn Jones. Dawn bought what is commonly referred to in the insurance industry as a short-term health insurance plan. She brought it from the Golden Rule Insurance Company,
which is a unit of UnitedHealth, and she needed it because she needed some coverage in between jobs. She was then diagnosed with breast cancer, and she went through a heartbreakingly expensive, trying to get her insurance company to cover her for her $400,000 medical bills.

In the end, she could not get her short-term health insurance plan to cover her breast cancer treatments, and here is the reason why. The insurer didn’t cover preexisting conditions. Short-term plans do not need to cover things we traditionally think of as healthcare insurance today. The protections of the Affordable Care Act require that insurance cover you regardless of whether you are diagnosed with a serious disease, but short-term plans don’t need to cover you for those things.

This short-term plan didn’t cover her breast cancer, despite the fact that she wasn’t diagnosed with breast cancer until she signed up for the plan. So you may ask: Why is that a preexisting condition if she wasn’t diagnosed with breast cancer until she was on this short-term plan?

Well, the insurer in this case made a very big, significant claim. It said that she actually had the cancer before she signed up for insurance. So even though she didn’t know she had cancer and even though she hadn’t been diagnosed with cancer, because she technically had cancer before she got the insurance plan, she had a preexisting condition, and, thus, they would not cover her.

This is a pretty typical story about what happens on these short-term insurance plans in this country. They are more commonly referred to these days as junk insurance plans because, for millions of Americans who sign up for short-term insurance, they find out that it really doesn’t cover much of anything.

One Golden Rule plan excludes pregnancy and provides a lifetime maximum benefit of $250,000. That is, by the way, an incredibly low amount of lifetime coverage—$250,000. One hospital stay for a serious illness can be over $250,000. And the icing on the cake—this particular junk plan from Golden Rule doesn’t cover a hospital stay for a serious illness on a Saturday because you are not going to get coverage on those 2 days of the week. These are junk plans because they don’t cover what you need, and you, by and large, don’t find out about that until you actually need the insurance.

How about a gentleman from San Antonio who actually had his short-term plan for about 6 years? He had been paying it and paying it for 6 years. Because they are technically short-term plans, he was renewing them over and over and over again, and when he was diagnosed with kidney disease, they wouldn’t cover him because they went back to his medical records and found out that he had some blood work done earlier that had shown the initial signs of kidney disease, but he wasn’t diagnosed until later on.

What they said—just as they did for the woman in Atlanta—is this: Because you had signs of kidney disease when you were insured with us a year ago, we are not going to cover you now because, technically, you are on a new plan.

He had been getting a plan every 6 months every year. He didn’t have any gaps in insurance, but because he technically was signing up for short-term plan after short-term plan, he didn’t get covered for his kidney disease. Over and over, we hear these stories about individuals who go on these junk plans and then find out that they can’t get insured for anything—can’t get insured for hospital stays on Fridays and Saturdays, can’t get insure for mental health treatment, no prescription drug coverage for one of the drugs for kidney failure, and all sorts of backbreaking activity to try to stop people from getting coverage for illnesses.

Yet these plans are becoming more and more prolific. Why is that? The reason why the administration is using an innovative method to try to get more Americans to sign up for these junk plans, and that is what I wanted to come to the floor and talk about today.

These junk plans are a nightmare for people who get on them and then find themselves on the outside of coverage. When you sign up for health insurance, you basically think it is going to cover a set of things like hospital stays on weekends and coverage for your cancer diagnosis, but these junk plans don’t cover those things.

The administration has decided to use a section of the Affordable Care Act that was designed to strengthen our healthcare system and, instead, use it to weaken the healthcare insurance system by providing for more and more of these junk plans.

Here is a little bit of legislative history. There is a section of the ACA that was set up so that you could apply to the State for a waiver to improve coverage. The waiver says that you can do some innovative things in the ACA so long as you prove that whatever you are going to do is going to provide health coverage that is just as comprehensive as what is required under the ACA, that you are not going to cost consumers any more than what they are paying under the ACA, that the number of people who are insured under the ACA in your State isn’t going to go down—it is going to stay stable or go up—and you are not going to increase the Federal deficit.

Well, President Trump, in October of 2018, issued new guidance that essentially guts all of those protections for plans waivers. President Trump basically says that these short-term insurance plans can be approved, even if they cost people more, even if they don’t cover things like preexisting conditions, and even if they result in fewer people getting insurance.

This October 2018 guidance allowed for these junk plans to be sold in more States to more consumers. Even worse, the guidance said that these junk plans could be sold side by side with the Affordable Care Act plans right on the same web page, disguising the fact that some plans would actually cover you for your preexisting conditions and others wouldn’t.

So, today, we have more and more of these junk plans available to individuals and more people who are vulnerable to all of the old abuses that used to happen left and right in the healthcare insurance system, largely to people who have pretty serious illnesses.

Now, 130 million Americans have a preexisting condition. In my State, over a half million people have some sort of preexisting condition. If they sign up for one of these junk plans—either because they were marketed the plan under the belief that it would cover them or by mistake because they didn’t notice the difference between the ACA-regulated plans and the junk plans—and they went on to—they are at risk of not getting covered for their preexisting condition.

It gets even worse than that because what economists tell us is that these junk plans, which cover very little, are going to be attractive to some people who are presently pretty healthy. Young people and people who don’t have any preexisting conditions may sign up for those junk plans because it doesn’t really matter to them at the time that they don’t get coverage for much at all; the junk plans are going to have prices that are lower, in most instances, than the plans that cover basic healthcare services. In the short term, that might be OK for the young, healthy who are relatively healthy. But, until, of course, they get sick and find out that their junk plan doesn’t cover anything. But for the people who have preexisting conditions, who can’t sign up for the junk plans, and who need to be on the plans that are regulated by the Affordable Care Act, their premiums are going to skyrocket.

This is health insurance 101. As more healthy people go to the junk plans, leaving behind on the Affordable Care Act plans folks who have these preexisting conditions, their prices will go up.

The Trump administration’s junk plan rule is, frankly, bad news for a lot of people who are on junk plans if and when they actually need healthcare insurance, but it is also really terrible news for the 130 million Americans who have preexisting conditions, who are likely going to see their insurance rates skyrocket.

Next week we are going to have a vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate, a vote on a resolution of disapproval for the administration’s junk plan guidance. I have listened for a long time to
Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle talk about how the one thing we agree on is that we need to protect people with preexisting conditions, and though many of our Republican colleagues might not support the Affordable Care Act, they do agree that we should support people with preexisting conditions, which I generally read to mean that we should make sure we don’t pass legislation and we don’t let the administration do anything that will make it harder than it already is to live with a cancer diagnosis or a diagnosis of serious heart disease.

Yet it is completely clear that the Trump administration’s guidance is going to make life a lot worse for people with preexisting conditions, for those who go on the junk plans, and for those who stay behind.

Here is a quote from an article in The Atlantic magazine, which did a summary of these junk plans and what they are like as a matter of how important they are to insurance companies. The article says that these short-term junk plans “make up a high-profit portion” of the insurance industry’s business.

They are largely designed to rake in premiums, even as they offer little in return. And even when they do pay for things, they often provide confusing or conflicting protocols for making claims. Collectively, short-term plans can leave thousands of people functionally uninsured or underinsured without addressing or lowering real systemwide costs.

That is the story of junk plans. They are a pretty good deal for the insurance industry, which is why they have been pushing the Trump administration to allow more of these junk plans to be sold. They are a good deal for the insurance companies because ultimately they don’t require the insurance companies to pay out a lot in benefits, but they don’t require the insurance companies because ultimately they are like and, frankly, how important they are to insurance companies. The article says that these short-term junk plans “make up a high-profit portion” of the insurance industry’s business.

It is time for everybody in this body who has stood up and said that they support individuals with preexisting conditions to vote that way. Next week, we will have an opportunity to stop in its tracks the Trump administration’s rule allowing for more of these junk plans to be sold to consumers. Because we know the House of Representatives will join us, we now have the chance to actually do something to stop this erosion of healthcare for people with preexisting conditions before it is too late.

I get that the country and this Congress are rightly consumed with the ongoing scandal surrounding the impeachment inquiry and the recent heartbreakingly, unconscionable events in Syria, but that doesn’t mean folks in our States are as concerned with those headline-grabbing issues as we are. They still have to make their budgets balance every single month, and they are deeply worried—despondent about those families I talked to in Connecticut who are still struggling with serious illnesses—about our ability to make sure the protections for preexisting conditions, which were a lifeline for millions of Americans when we passed the Affordable Care Act, are not undermined by this President. We have a chance to step up and do something about it and work hard.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I get into my main remarks on Syria, I just want to bring to the floor the problem of the ongoing scandal surrounding the improper solicitation of aid to the Egyptian government. On that, Leader McConnell, you know that I have testified before the Senate that the Senate is the legislative graveyard, that Leader McConnell has not put on the floor bill after bill on major issues that affect the country and that demand attention. Most everybody knows what a multi-trillion dollar bill that the Senate has to work on that the President has put on the floor. And the Senate is not doing anything, because this President decided to back down only after hearing of intense opposition from members of his own party, many of whom told him privately they would not defend him on the issue.

It is obvious to almost everyone in America that you don’t suggest a resort that you own as the place to have a conference. It makes no sense. Is the President so interested in making a few extra dollars—reports are that he bragged what a multibillionaire he is in his conference. It makes no sense. Is the President so interested that he would risk violating the rules and laws of this country, the emoluments clause? It makes no sense.

It is unfortunate that this wasn’t the only decision that made no sense. There is an obvious parallel between the President’s decision about the G7 and his decision to precipitously withdraw our forces from Syria. Both were done in a sort of whimsical way whereby, from all reports, the President didn’t consult with the experts in this latter case—witheven the military, the State Department, and the CIA.

Both have resulted in condemnation from across the political spectrum. In fact, last week, over 120 House Republicans voted in favor of the resolution criticizing the President’s Syria policy. Leaders McCarthy, Scalise, and Cheney are hardly moderates, in the middle, the President didn’t consult with the experts in this latter case—witheven the military, the State Department, and the CIA.

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allies and has created a security vacuum that our longest standing adversaries—Iran, Putin, and Assad—are exploiting. He put American lives in danger by letting hardened ISIS fighters escape captivity and regroup.

As soon as the Kurds were evacuated from Kurdish areas, videos showed Kurdish locals hurling rotting vegetables and shouting “America lies.” That is painful. Do you know to whom it is the most painful? Our soldiers who fought alongside the Kurds. They sacrificed some of their own people so that Americans wouldn’t have to die.

One leading Russian newspaper, which, is no doubt, part of the Putin propaganda machine, ran a column this week that proclaimed Russia’s unexpected triumph in the Middle East and that Putin won the lottery. Meanwhile, public reports suggest that at least 200 people with suspected links to the Islamic State have escaped the displacement camp in northeast Syria as a result of the Turkish invasion, and in New York know better than anyone what a small group of bad, bad terrorists—evil terrorists—can do in untold damage to our homeland.

This policy is reckless, unthought out, and dangerous. It has been 3 weeks since the announcement of the President’s decision, and he has yet to articulate any plan for what happens next. As a 5-day pause on hostilities comes quickly to an end tomorrow, every member of this Chamber ought to be asking: What is President Trump’s strategy to secure the enduring defeat of ISIS? How does the President plan to find the escaped ISIS prisoners? How does he plan to fix this mess? These ISIS people are dangerous and can create a problem right here in our homeland.

This morning, according to the New York Times, the President is now considering leaving a small force in eastern Syria. We need to know if that means Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans should let us vote on the House resolution criticizing the President’s withdrawal.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to talk about the question of impeachment, which, of course, is being debated across the country.

Evidence continues to mount regarding actions the President has taken. Of course, this issue is not only worthy of debate but also of inquiry and review and even debate and discussion here in the Senate.

From the Mueller report to the recent revelations regarding the President’s dealings with Ukraine and its President, evidence indicates that the President is not only willing to take actions which, in my judgment, amount to an abuse of power—in fact, I think the behavior of the President on the phone call with the Ukrainian President was an abuse of power. Apparently, he wants to enlist others to defend the indefensible—this behavior—and has said other things that are troubling to so many Americans.

I think it is important to provide some historical perspective on impeachment, and I will seek to do some of that today. This is by no means a full review of the history, but I think it is important to talk about some of the questions our Founders were wrestling with.

Our Founders grappled with many different questions as they debated the Constitution itself, particularly the nature and the power of the Office of the President of the United States. As our Founders debated how to hold the President accountable during the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Elbridge Gerry said at the time, “a good magistrate will not fear [impeachments]. A bad one ought to be kept in fear of them.”

Consistent with Gerry’s remarks, our Constitution provides an impeachment procedure for “Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.” At the time of the drafting, our Founders’ understanding of “high Crimes and Misdemeanors” was informed by centuries of English legal precedent.

We know, as Alexander Hamilton explained in Federalist No. 65, impeachment should stem from “abuse or violation of some public trust.” I will say it again: “abuse or violation of some public trust.” Informed by this history, Congress has consistently interpreted the phrase broadly to mean “serious violations of the duties that was one understanding—and has explained that “the phrase refers to misconduct that damages the state and the operations of governmental institutions, and is not limited to criminal misconduct.” That is an important distinction—not limited to criminal misconduct.

There is no requirement for a President to engage in a quid pro quo. Any kind of quid pro quo arrangement is not required for impeachment, although it is certainly an impeachable offense to engage in that kind of conduct. Rather, our Constitution merely requires “abuse or violation of some public trust,” as Hamilton spoke to.

Since Special Counsel Mueller issued his report on Russian interference in the 2016 election and, more recently, as testimony has emerged about President Trump’s conduct toward Ukraine, I have attempted to assess how President Trump’s actions fit in our historical and current understanding of what “high Crimes and Misdemeanors” means.

This is an undertaking that must be done in a considered manner and after reviewing all of the relevant information that is available. But I am increasingly convinced that Speaker Pelosi was correct in calling for a formal impeachment inquiry into President Trump’s conduct. A failure by Congress to pursue impeachment in the face of grave offenses by the President would be insulting to our Constitution and insulting to our values.

Let’s talk about the Ukraine example for a moment. Over the past several weeks, our Nation has been confronted by credible and detailed press reports, as well as exhaustive testimony, in some cases lasting 8 hours, 9 hours, 10 hours at a time, that President Trump has wronged the public interest, and this testimony has come from both career diplomats and State Department officials indicating that the
President has been employing his personal attorney to manage a shadow diplomacy agenda focused on personal vendettas and unfounded conspiracy theories in Ukraine.

In a telephone call with President Zelensky of Ukraine, President Trump—immediately after the Ukrainian President raised the issue of purchasing Javelins to defend his country from Russian aggression—asked the Ukrainian President to “do us a favor though” by working with his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, launching an investigation into a discredited conspiracy theory regarding a DNC server in Ukraine. To say that theory is debunked is an understatement. It has been debunked, so said a former Homeland Security Advisor to President Trump, among others.

President Trump also asked President Zelensky “to look into” Joe Biden’s son and explained that “a lot of people want to find out” about Biden—a political play, of course, is running for President.

After a memorandum of the phone call was released to the public, the House Intelligence Community released a text message from the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, who indicated that he thought it was “crazy [for the President] to withhold security assistance for help with a political campaign.”

Other officials have since come forward, some even resigning because of their serious concerns over the White House’s handling of Ukraine policy. Michael McKinley, a former senior advisor to the U.S. Secretary of State, testified that he resigned for two reasons: the failure, in my view, of the State Department to offer support to Foreign Service employees caught up in the impeachment inquiry on Ukraine, and, second, by what appears to be the utilization of our ambassadors overseas to advance a domestic political objective.” That is what Mr. McKinley, who just left the State Department, said.

Our Founders had the foresight to ensure that the power of the President was not unlimited and that Congress could, if necessary, hold the Executive accountable for abuses of power through the impeachment process. Surely, not every instance of Presidential wrongdoing merits impeachment. Using the vast powers of impeachment in a cavalier fashion would be an abuse to our Constitution.

This inquiry is not simply about President Trump’s abuse of power. This inquiry is about our democracy and the values that the Founders agreed should guide our Nation.

Impeachment is not what anyone in this town would prefer. It is what our Constitution demands—demands—when an Executive abuses his or her power in a manner that “damages the state and the operations of government institutions that have been set up to deal with an earlier impeachment in the 1860s.

As Hamilton said so long ago—but so prescient—when there is an “abuse or violation of some public trust,” we are summoned—summoned—by our constitutional duty to act.

To fail to act would be a dereliction of that duty, thereby inviting this executive and future executives to abuse that public trust with impunity. We should never do that.

MR. CASEY. Mr. President, very briefly, I wanted to highlight a story that was in today’s Wall Street Journal, entitled “As Court Impeils Affordable Care Act, Some States Prepare Cling.” This is the headline. The subheadline is this: “Lawmakers explore ways to preserve coverage, benefits if the health law is struck down.”

This is the opening paragraph that I will read—it is not very long, but I want to read it—from the story today:

A federal appeals court decision that could strike down the Affordable Care Act as soon as this month has rattled officials in several states that already have what appear to preserve some coverage in the absence of any Trump administration contingency plan.

Lawmakers in states including Louisiana, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Texas have begun to consider bills that would allow individuals who have passed bills or are reviewing action aimed at dealing with the fallout if the ACA is overturned.

That is from the very beginning of the article. I will not go further, other than to say that this is a grave matter. If a Federal appeals court were to rule in favor of the moving party on appeal—or I should say the moving party at the beginning of the suit—and affirm the district court, what would happen if that were the case? The patient protection in the Affordable Care Act would be wiped out, and it would happen just chaos but would take away protections from people like those who have protections for a pre-existing condition and would also healthcare coverage away from millions, if not tens of millions.

This is a critically important matter, and it deserves and warrants the attention of Members of the Senate and the House as well.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to my colleagues on the Senate floor this evening.

I really come to talk about something that shouldn’t be momentous, shouldn’t be unusual, and should be routine around here. Unfortunately, as you and I have experienced, it is not routine. What is not routine is the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Congress getting its job done. Part of that job is the appropriations process, and it ought to be something we do every year on a routine basis.

Every city council, every county commission, and every school board in the State of Kansas every year passes a budget and determines the spending for that school board or that city council or for that county commission. Yet, when we come to Washington, DC, over the years, it has become problematic and it has become difficult for us to do one of the basic things of a functioning government: to determine the amount of money to be spent, in broad terms, and then to fill in the spaces with what we should do for individual Agencies and Departments within that budget agreement.

We are poised for a vote tomorrow, a motion on cloture. What that means to folks in Kansas is this: Should we begin the process of debating, amending, and passing appropriations bills? I am here to urge my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to vote yes on cloture, to bring us to the point in which we can have the debate.

I wouldn’t have thought when I came to the U.S. Senate that one of my primary tasks, at least as I saw it, would be trying to defend the Appropriations Committee and have an appropriations process that is thoughtful, that establishes priorities, that allows every Member of the Senate to have input. That is something we ought to be able to accommodate without a lot of work, and I hope that we demonstrate that we can do that in the vote tomorrow.

The appropriations process has involved an Appropriations Committee of which you, Mr. President, and I serve on. Many of the bills have been considered and voted on. There will be four bills as a package in this motion to invoke cloture that will be presented to the full Senate tomorrow.

For the subcommittee, that I chair—Commerce, Justice, Science—that Appropriations bill will be a part of that cloture package. Agriculture, something hugely important to my constituents in Kansas and across the country has been eliminated. Interiors, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development—those four bills have passed unanimously out of the Senate Appropriations Committee in September. Every Republican on the committee and every Democrat on the committee voted in favor of them.

I know in my own circumstances, on the Commerce, Justice, Science bill, I worked closely—perhaps a better way to say it is that the ranking member of our subcommittee, the Senator from New Hampshire, Mrs. Shaheen, and I worked closely together—to try to find a path by which we could avoid those issues that would prevent us from finding an agreement that allowed our bill to move forward. I am pretty certain that occurred in the other three subcommittees.

Presented tomorrow is an opportunity for the Senate to take up 4 appropriations bills—and those are ones that were unanimously agreed to by the Appropriations Committee. I commend Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy for their efforts in the full committee to bring us together to get us in a position where we have those four bills now, soon, I hope, to be pending in front of the Senate.
Why does this matter? There is a lot of work that has gone into trying to determine what those appropriations bills should say and should contain. Certainly, how much money we spend is important, but if you sidetrack the appropriations process, you eliminate the opportunity to provide input as to how much money should be spent in those various areas of the appropriations bills. Are those priorities that are more important than something else because we know we should spend and can’t spend money on everything?

That is what the appropriations process does. Maybe we didn’t get it exactly right, but allowing the bills to come to the Senate floor allows 99 of my colleagues and 100 of us have the opportunity to provide input as to how much money should be spent in those various areas of the appropriations bills. Are there things that are higher priorities, programs that work better than others?

We ought to care about this from a fiscal point of view—how much money we spend. Are we on a path to get us to a greater fiscal sanity, getting our books to balance? But at the same time, in the process of doing that, are we making decisions that determine that something is more important than something else because we know we shouldn’t spend and can’t spend money on everything?

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North Macedonia has made progress on rule of law and democracy, but more work remains to perfect the system. NATO member states should not consider this process complete and must continue supporting North Macedonia’s work to fully implement its reform commitments.

Finally, admitting North Macedonia into NATO is an important step towards fully integrating the Balkans into the international institutions that contribute to peace and stability in Europe. Thus far, this year’s vote will provide momentum for North Macedonia to open EU accession talks as well. There is unfinished work for peace in the Balkans, and the United States must remain committed to the region to resolve these long-running challenges.

The Kremlin, of course, does not want to see stability in the Balkans. It does not want to see the spread of democracy and rule of law. It does not want NATO’s influence to experience the peace and prosperity that integration with the West brings. That is why Russia tried to stop the Visegrad Agreement with disinformation and political manipulation, and why it has utterly opposed North Macedonia’s NATO accession.

With today’s vote, we can make clear that no country outside the Alliance gets a veto over who gets to join NATO, especially not Russia. We can show our support for a country that has partnered with us on important security missions and is making tough but necessary reforms. We can promote stability in a critical region of the world and reduce Kremlin influence there. Most importantly, we can protect our homeland by expanding an alliance that has proven invaluable to national security.

While it is a positive step that we are voting to ratify North Macedonia’s NATO accession protocol, it is also an opportune moment to take a step back and consider the Senate’s treaty power more broadly.

Article 2 of the Constitution endows the President and the Senate with shared power over treaties. The President, it states, “shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur.” While the Constitution does not expressly dictate a procedure for terminating national relationships, Senators have long asserted that the shared treaty power extends to withdrawal and therefore also requires Senate approval.

Regardless of whether the executive branch agrees with this position, what is completely unacceptable is that Senators are first learning about treaty withdrawals and threats to withdraw online or in the newspaper instead of through proactive outreach by and meaningful dialogue with the executive branch.

The stakes could not be higher. Among the three treaties President Trump has pulled out of just this year is the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty—INF Treaty—a cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime with Russia. The Senate approved this treaty in 1988 by a vote of 93-5.

Now, there are rumors swirling that the President will imminently pull out of the Open Skies Treaty, a multilateral arms control agreement that has been a critical element of U.S. and European security. The Senate approved that treaty in 1990 without any recorded opposition.

As with so many aspects of President Trump’s foreign policy, withdrawal from Open Skies would be another gift to Vladimir Putin. Just last year, the United States conducted an extraordinary flight authorized under Open Skies and intended to reaffirm U.S. commitment to Ukraine and other partner nations. Further, when the Ukraine crisis first emerged, the United States and its allies shared images collected by U.S. surveillance missions under the Open Skies Treaty to publically demonstrate that Russian forces had invaded Ukrainian territory. Withdrawing from the Open Skies Treaty would only further doubt on the status of the U.S. commitment to Ukraine’s security and would advance the Russian narrative that the United States is an unreliable partner in the region.

These are clearly examples of how these two unilateral treaty withdrawals are wayward, contrary to U.S. obligations. The United States has now demonstrated a reckless approach to foreign policy—an approach that gratifies the Trump administration’s short-term goals at the expense of our country’s long-term interests—they also erode the Senate’s prerogative on treaties. Given the constitutional mandate of shared responsibility for treaties between the Senate and President, along with a heightened standard for Senate advice and consent, it is inconceivable to think that unilateral treaty termination, absent any engagement whatsoever with the Senate, could be constitutional, and if that is what this President is doing and what this Senate must reject.

It is in this context that we must face an unfortunate truth relevant to the continuing health of the NATO alliance, which is the constant threat that President Trump may suddenly pull the United States out of NATO altogether. As such, the President has apparently raised with subordinates. If recent history is any guide, the fact that a U.S. withdrawal would be reckless, dangerous, and, as the former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO has said, “a geopolitical mistake of epic proportion,” does not mean that the President will not pursue it.

With that in mind, it is unfortunate that Senator McConnell refused to allow amendments to the North Macedonia Protocol. Had he allowed a more open process, I would have offered an amendment that would have conditioned Senate advice and consent on the protocol to a requirement that the President not withdraw from NATO without Senate approval. While this step may not have been necessary previously, we must regretfully move in that direction to respond to President Trump and to protect against his ability and willingness to undermine U.S. national security through hasty and unilateral treaty withdrawals.

So, while I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting to ratify North Macedonia’s NATO accession protocol, I must express my concern that the Senate has not yet taken any steps to prevent President Trump from pulling the United States out of NATO or other treaties absent any Senate input or approval.

Mr. CASEY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled vote comment come now.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to invoke cloture on the21

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of North Macedonia 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 privileged to add a formal statement to the record from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Alabama (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. HAMMACK), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Massachusetts October 21, 2019
Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, oceans, lakes, and rivers across our planet are filled with debris that litters shorelines and threatens public health, navigation, safety, wildlife, and the environment. This debris causes serious damage to the health of ocean ecosystems and marine life and, due to ocean currents, often travels great distances and poses threats to nations that are not responsible for the mismanagement of such waste.

One of the most common forms of marine debris is plastic, which is abundant in our everyday lives, often in the form of single-use packaging. Countless marine species, seals, and other marine animals are killed each year after ingesting plastic or getting entangled in it. And most commonly used plastics never fully degrade but, rather, break down into smaller and smaller pieces, known as microplastics, which pose unique problems of their own.

The negative health, environmental, and economic impacts of marine pollution, both to countries that discharge waste and to those on whose shorelines such waste washes up, are steadily mounting. Billions of pounds of plastic and other debris can be found in our oceans and waterways.

In the Senate version of the fiscal year 2020 Department of State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which was reported unanimously by Appropriations Committee on September 26, the committee recommended funding to respond to this global threat. In this bill, the committee directs the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development to redouble their diplomatic and programmatic support for regional and global efforts to address this urgent problem, including through grants, technical assistance, and new multilateral mechanisms, and provides $10 million to support such efforts.

While the funding provided is minuscule compared to what is needed, the committee’s intent is clear. The United States must increase its leadership and visibility on this issue and become more engaged in efforts to prevent and mitigate the impacts of marine debris. The committee recognizes that the United States cannot address this problem alone. Nothing connects countries of the world better than oceans and waterways, and strong international cooperation is necessary to guarantee their conservation for generations to come. It is imperative that the United States increases its engagement both bilaterally and multilaterally to tackle this challenge.

It is not an understatement to say that what I am speaking about—the protection of the oceans, lakes, and rivers across our planet—is to our existence. I hope other Senators will join me, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and others who have taken up this cause in calling for additional resources to address ocean plastic pollution.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING AMELIA ISLAND KAYAK EXCURSIONS

Mr. RUBIO, Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week it is my honor to recognize a small business that exemplifies family values and dedication to its community. I am proud to recognize Amelia Island Kayak Excursions of Fernandina Beach, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Established in 2013, Amelia Island Kayak Excursions is the product of the Bullington family’s love of kayaking in the Amelia Island inlands. Six years ago, Mark Bullington and his two children, Amber and Aaron, decided to turn their hobby into their livelihood. Their love of Florida and commitment to responsible stewardship of the Earth led the Bullingtons to share their passion with visitors and their community.

Showcasing Florida’s beauty, Amelia Island Kayak Excursions offers both kayak and boat expeditions throughout wildlife-rich Egans Creek, Lofton’s Creek, and more of Florida’s coastal environment. Tours range from 2 to 5 hours, and overnight tours are offered for experienced kayakers. Additionally, Amelia Island Kayak Excursions offers private boat tours for small groups to observe the diverse local wildlife.

Since its founding, the tour guides of Amelia Island Kayak Excursions have continued to learn more about Florida’s unique environment and community. Over the span of his career, Mark has logged more than 5,400 miles kayaking and canoeing, gaining extensive knowledge about the scenic ecosystem in the process. Amber not only leads tours but is also involved with the local business community through the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce and, in 2018, was recognized as the chamber’s Ambassador of the Year. Aaron is certified through the University of Florida as a Florida Master Naturalist, a certification which lends itself easily to his role as tour guide.

As a well-established tour service, Amelia Island Kayak Excursions has become a cornerstone of Amelia Island’s economic framework of Fernandina Beach. This business’s influential role has not gone unnoticed. In 2017, Amelia Island
Kayak Excursions was recognized by the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce as the Small Business of the Year and received the Bold City Best Water Sports Award. In addition to its accomplishments, Amelia Island Kayak Excursions is dedicated to giving back to the community through engagement with local charities and corresponding fundraisers. To educate the next generation about Florida’s wildlife, the Bullingtons have partnered with an after school program by gifting students with free kayak trips if they meet their academic goals.

Amelia Island Kayak Excursions is a great example of a community-oriented small business. I am proud to honor and congratulate Amelia Island Kayak Excursions for its hard work and dedication to the Floridian landscape. I wish the entire team at Amelia Island Kayak Excursions the best of luck and success in all of their future endeavors.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1815. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission, when developing rules and regulations about disclosures to retail investors, to conduct investor testing, including a survey and interviews of retail investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3624. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the disclosure of the total number of domestic and foreign employees of certain public companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying reports, documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2838. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to support to recovery efforts for FEMA–317–EM in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico having exceeded the $5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2839. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Fairmont, MN” ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0971)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2840. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff and Obstacle Proced- dures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amend- ment No. 8772” (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2841. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff and Obstacle Proced- dures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amend- ment No. 8771” (RIN2120–AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2842. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Proce- dures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amend- ment No. 8761” (RIN2120–AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2843. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Huntsville, AL” ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0509)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2844. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Haleyville, AL and Helena, AL” ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0502)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2845. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Fairmont, MN” ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0971)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2846. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Matison/Charles- ton, IL, and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Moline, IL” ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0529)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2847. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class C Airspace; Lafayette, LA” ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0976)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2848. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes Q–121 and Q–156; Miles City, MT” ((RIN2120– AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0567)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2849. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference
Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer from NC to MA” (RIN0648–GAR–A005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2875. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Final Rule: 2019 Closure of the Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area to the General Category Individual Fishing Quota Scallop Vessel” (RIN0648–XG998) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2876. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery; 2019 Illex Squid and Bluefish Harvested” (RIN0648–XX007) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2877. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Common Pool Measures for Fishing Year 2019” (RIN0648–XG990) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2878. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer from NC to VA” (RIN0648–GAR–A004) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2879. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; 2019 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Closure” (RIN0648–XPC002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2880. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; 2019 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Closure” (RIN0648–XPC002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2881. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishery; Temporary Rule; Inseason General Category Retention Limit Adjustment (Remainder of June through August 2019 Subquota Period)” (RIN0648–XT007) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2882. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishery; Temporary Rule; Inseason Quota Transfer (Reserve Category to Harpoon Category)” (RIN0648–XT008) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2883. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019–2020 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments for June 2019” (RIN0648–BJ11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2884. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Angling Category Retention Limit Adjustment” (RIN0648–XT013) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2885. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Reserve Category to Harpoon Category” (RIN0648–XT010) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2886. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Temporary Rule; Inseason Quota Transfer (Reserve Category to Harpoon Category)” (RIN0648–XT010) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2887. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishery; Temporary Rule; Inseason General Category Retention Limit Adjustment (Remainder of June through August 2019 Subquota Period)” (RIN0648–HMS–A001) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2888. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishery; Temporary Rule; Inseason General Category Retention Limit Adjustment (Remainder of June through August 2019 Subquota Period)” (RIN0648–XT007) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2889. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishery; Temporary Rule; Inseason General Category Retention Limit Adjustment (Remainder of June through August 2019 Subquota Period)” (RIN0648–XT007) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2909. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands” (RIN0648–XY004) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2910. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commercial Trip Limit Reduction for Spanish and Greenland Bluewhites Complex in the South Atlantic” (RIN0648–XH004) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2911. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648–XH015) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2912. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commercial Harvest Closure for the Golden Tilefish in the South Atlantic” (RIN0648–XH025) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2913. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2019 Commercial Harvest Closure for the Yellowtail Snapper in the South Atlantic” (RIN0648–XH034) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
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2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2918. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2019 Gulf of Mexico Commercial Greater Amberjack Season” (RIN0648–XT630) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2919. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atlantic and Pacific Herring’ (RIN0648–XT078) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2920. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT073) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2921. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XG699) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2922. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT672) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2923. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT671) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2924. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area’ (RIN0648–XG698) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2925. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XG697) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2926. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XG693) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2927. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XG685) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2928. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Specifications’ (RIN0648–XG677) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2929. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT687) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2930. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT686) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2931. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Non-American Fisheries Act Crab Vessels Operating as Catcher Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XG731) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2932. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT631) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2933. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT630) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2934. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT629) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2935. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT628) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2936. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT627) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2937. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT626) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2938. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “‘Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska’ (RIN0648–XT625) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
By Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2940. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States: Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries: Revised 2019 Summer Flounder Specifications” (RIN 0648–XG898) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2941. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States: Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Adj ustment of Georges Bank and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder Annual Catch Limits” (RIN 0648–XG833) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2942. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States: Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery, Inseason Adjustment to the Northern Red Hake Possession Limit” (RIN 0648–XX010) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2943. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries Off the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Flatfish Exchange in the Bering Sea and South Bering Sea” (RIN 0648–XY090) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:
S. 2132. A bill to promote security and provide for United States victims of international terrorism. 

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 Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. ROBERTS):
S. 2658. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.
By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOPE, and Mr. MANCHIN):
S. 2649. A bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the functioning of depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):
S. 2658. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.
By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):
S. 2651. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide inscriptions for spouses and children on certain headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.
By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:
S. 2652. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide that only citizens or nationals of the United States may operate trains within the United States that originate in Mexico; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. W HITEHOUSE, Ms. H ARRIS, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND:
S. 2654. A bill to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of Federal funds for certain agreements relating to the 46th G7 Summit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:
By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. CAPITO):
S. Res. 366. A resolution supporting the goals of the 2019 Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
By Mr. HIRONO (for himself and Mr. BROWN):
S. Res. 367. A resolution condemning the horrific attack in Dayton, Ohio, and expressing support and prayers for all those impacted by that tragedy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):
S. Res. 368. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; considered and agreed to.
By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Ms. KAY HEGGEN):
S. Con. Res. 27. A concurrent resolution providing for the use of the catafalque situ

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BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERIES; TEMPORARY RULE; INSEASON GENERAL CATEGORY QUOTA TRANSFER AND CLOSURE (SEPTEMBER 2019 SUBQUOTA PE RIOD) (RIN0648–XT018) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS
uranium mining, and for other purposes.

S. 1392

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1392, 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. 1180

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1180, a bill to extend the full Federal medical assistance percentage to urban Indian organizations.

S. 1233

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1233, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

S. 1253

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1253, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1307

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1307, a bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. MARKET, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. HIRONO), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1728, a bill to require the United States Postal Service to sell the Alzheimer’s semipostal stamp for 6 additional years.

S. 1757

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1757, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the motion Fund to the Corporation for Electronic Travel Authorization System fees from the Travel Promotion Fund to the Corporation for

S. 1884

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1908, a bill to amend section 6903 of title 21, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, and for other purposes.

S. 1918

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) 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. 2042

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to require the Secretary of Education to develop a plain language disclosure form for borrowers of Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2080

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2085

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust, and for other purposes.

S. 2108

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2108, a bill to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, and for other purposes.

S. 2168

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2168, a bill to establish a student loan forgiveness plan for certain borrowers who are employed at a qualified farm or ranch.

S. 2203

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2250
At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to provide for the improvement of domestic infrastructure in order to prevent marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2303
At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2303, a bill to allow United States citizens and legal residents to travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 2342
At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2342, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 2454
At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2454, a bill to terminate certain rules issued by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce relating to endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. 2491
At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2491, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the Medicare and disability insurance benefits waiting periods for disabled individuals.

S. 2539
At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2539, a bill to modify and reauthorize the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2570
At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2570, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond in recognition of his service to the United States as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

S. 2602
At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2602, a bill to exclude vehicles to be used solely for competition from certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2650
At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2650, a bill to prohibit arms sales to Turkey.

S. 2661
At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2661, a bill to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, and for other purposes.

S. J. Res. 21
At the request of Mr. BRAUN, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution relating to the line item veto, a limitation on the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve, and requiring a vote of two-thirds of the membership of both Houses of Congress on any legislation raising or imposing new taxes or fees.

S. J. Res. 56
At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. J. Res. 56, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability”.

S. Con. Res. 9
At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):
S. 2650. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.
Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.
There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:
S. 2650
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 “Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2019”.
SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICARE OPERATED PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN OPTION.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 2 of part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting after section 1860D–11 (42 U.S.C. 1395w–11) the following new section:
"SEC. 1860D–11A. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, for each year (beginning with 2021), in addition to any plans under section 1860D–11, the Secretary shall offer one or more Medicare operated prescription drug plans (as defined in subsection (d)) with a service area that consists of the entire United States and shall enter into negotiations in accordance with subsection (c) with pharmaceutical manufacturers to reduce the cost of covered part D drugs for eligible part D individuals who enroll in such a plan.
(b) ENROLLMENT.—Notwithstanding subsections (C) and (D) of section 1860D–1(b)(1), a Medicare operated prescription drug plan offered under this section shall serve as the default prescription drug plan for all part D enrollees unless another prescription drug plan is selected.
(c) NEGOTIATIONS.—Notwithstanding section 1860D–11(i), for purposes of offering a Medicare operated prescription drug plan under this section, the Secretary may negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers with respect to the purchase price of covered part D drugs in a Medicare operated prescription drug plan and shall encourage the use of more affordable therapeutic equivalents to cover such part D drugs as medically necessary as determined by the prescribing physician. To the extent practicable and consistent with the previous sentence, the Secretary shall implement negotiation and incentive strategies similar to those used by other Federal purchasers of prescription drugs to reduce the purchase cost of covered part D drugs, and other strategies, as described in subsection (f), which may include the use of a pricing scale based on an international price index.
(d) MEDICARE OPERATED PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN DEFINED.—For purposes of this part, the term ‘Medicare operated prescription drug plan’ means a comprehensive prescription drug plan that offers qualified prescription drug coverage and access to negotiated prices described in section 1860D–2(a)(1)(A). Such a plan may offer supplemental prescription drug coverage in the same manner as other qualified prescription drug coverage offered by other prescription drug plans.
(6) MONTHLY BENEFICIARY PREMIUM.—
(1) QUALIFIED PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE.—The monthly beneficiary premium for qualified prescription drug coverage and access to negotiated prices described in section 1860D–2(a)(1)(A) to be charged under a Medicare operated prescription drug plan shall be uniform nationally. Such premium for months in 2021 and each succeeding year shall be based on the average monthly per capita actuarial cost of offering the Medicare operated prescription drug plan for the year involved, including administrative expenses.
(2) SUPPLEMENTAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE.—If a Medicare operated prescription drug plan offers supplemental prescription drug coverage, the Secretary may adjust the amount of the premium charged under paragraph (1).
(7) USE OF NEGOTIATION AND BENEFIT DESIGN INCENTIVES.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the operation of a Medicare operated prescription drug plan and in negotiating with respect to the purchase price of covered part D drugs in such plan, the Secretary shall reward value, increase appropriate use of drugs, and ensure patient safety and access.
(2) ROLE OF AHRQ.—The Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality,
in coordination with the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall be responsible for assessing the clinical benefit of covered part D drugs and making recommendations to the Secretary regarding the negotiated prices of covered drugs and any appropriate tiering or incentive strategies under the plan. In conducting such assessments and making such recommendations, the Director shall carry out the following activities:

(A) Consider the comparable international prices of drugs based upon the median retail list price of such drug (which shall be, as practicable, the volume-weighted price for comparable units and dosage forms) among a category at least the following peer countries: Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Australia, and Germany.

(B) Consider safety concerns and post-market data, including those identified by the Food and Drug Administration and from national health registries.

(C) Use available data and evaluations, including from research supported by the National Institutes of Health, with priority given to randomized controlled trials, to examine clinical effectiveness, comparative effectiveness, safety, and enhanced compliance with a drug regimen.

(D) Use the same classes of drugs developed by United States Pharmacopeia for this purpose.

(E) Consider evaluations made by—

(i) the Director under section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003;

(ii) other Federal entities, such as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(iii) other private and public entities, which may include the Drug Effectiveness Review Project and Medicaid programs.

(F) Consider recommendations made by the advisory committee pursuant to paragraph (3)(F).

(G) Recommend to the Secretary those drugs in a class that provide a greater clinical benefit, including fewer safety concerns or less risk of side-effects, than another drug in the same class.

(H) USE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) The Secretary shall establish and appoint an advisory committee (in this paragraph referred to as the ‘advisory committee’):

(i) to review petitions from drug manufacturers, health care provider organizations, patient groups, and other entities regarding negotiated prices; and

(ii) to recommend any changes in order to further negotiations with respect to such prices.

(I) COMPOSITION.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the advisory committee shall be composed of 9 members and shall include representatives of physicians, pharmacists, consumers, and others with expertise in evaluating prescription drugs. The Secretary shall select members based on their knowledge of pharmaceuticals and the Medicare population. Members shall be deemed to be special Government employees for purposes of applying the conflict of interest provisions under section 208 of title 18, United States Code, and no waiver of such provisions shall be permitted.

(II) BANNED INDIVIDUALS.—

(I) DRUG COMPANY LOBBYISTS.—No former registered drug manufacturer lobbyist—

(1) may be appointed to the advisory committee; or

(2) may be employed by the advisory committee during the 6-year period beginning on the later of—

(aa) the date of the settlement described in item (aa) of clause (iii); or

(bb) the subject of an enforcement action described in item (bb) of such clause has concluded.

(III) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered entity’ means—

(D) a drug manufacturer; and

(ii) a drug manufacturer operating under Federal settlement including a Federal consent decree; or

(bb) the subject of an enforcement action in a court of the United States or by an agency.

(D) CONSULTATION.—The advisory committee shall consult, as necessary, with physicians who are specialists in treating the disease for which a drug is being considered.

(E) REQUEST FOR STUDIES.—The advisory committee may request the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality or an academic or research institution to study and make a report on a petition described in subparagraph (A)(i) in order to assess cost-effectiveness, clinical effectiveness, comparative effectiveness, safety, and compliance with a drug regimen.

(F) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The advisory committee shall make recommendations to the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality regarding the appropriate price at which to begin negotiations on a part D drug pursuant to this section.

(G) LIMITATIONS ON REVIEW OF MANUFACTURER PETITIONS.—The advisory committee may not review a petition of a drug manufacturer under subparagraph (A)(i) with respect to a covered part D drug unless the petition is accompanied by the following:

(H) RAW DATA FROM CLINICAL TRIALS.—

(i) The raw data from clinical trials on the safety and effectiveness of the drug.

(ii) Any data from clinical trials conducted using active controls on the drug or drugs that are the current standard of care.

(iii) Any available data on comparative effectiveness of the drug.

(iv) Any other information the Secretary requires for the advisory committee to complete its review.

(II) INFORMING BENEFICIARIES.—The Secretary shall inform part D eligible individuals not previously enrolled in a Medicare operated drug plan (including such individuals who are newly eligible to enroll under this part) regarding the enrollment of such individual in a Medicare operated drug plan in accordance with this section, including providing information in the annual handbook and adding information to the official public Medicare website related to prescription drug coverage available through this part.

(K) APPLICATION OF ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Except as specifically provided in this section, any Medicare operated drug plan shall meet the same requirements as apply to any other prescription drug plan, including the requirements of section 1860D–4(h)(1) relating to assuring pharmacy access.

(L) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1860D–3(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–111(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(II) AVAILABILITY OF THE MEDICARE OPERATED PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN.—A Medicare operated prescription drug plan (as defined in section 1860D–11a(d)) shall be offered nationally in accordance with section 1860D–11a.

(2) Section 1860D–3 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–103) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(c) PROVISIONS ONLY APPLICABLE IN 2006 THROUGH 2020.—The provisions of this section shall only apply with respect to 2006 through 2020.

(3) Section 1860D–13(c)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–113(c)(3)) is amended—

(A) by adding at the end the following new paragraph: NO AUTHORITY FOR FALLBACK PLANS AFTER 2020.—A fallback prescription drug plan shall not be available after December 31, 2020.

(3) Section 1860D–13(c)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–113(c)(3)) is amended—

(A) by adding at the end the following new paragraph: NO AUTHORITY FOR FALLBACK PLANS AFTER 2020.—A fallback prescription drug plan shall not be available after December 31, 2020.

(4) Section 1860D–16(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–116(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(II) USE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) Section 1860D–4(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–104(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop a well-defined process for appeals for denials of benefits under this part under the Medicare operated prescription drug plan (as defined in section 1860D–11a). Such process shall be efficient, impose minimal administrative burdens, and ensure the timely procurement of medications. Medication necessity shall be based on professional medical judgment, the medical condition of the beneficiary, and other medical evidence.

(B) CONSULTATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS.—In developing the appeals process under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consult with consumer and patient groups, as well as other key stakeholders, to ensure the goals described in subparagraph (A) are achieved.
SENATE RESOLUTION 366—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED RIBBON WEEK DURING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 23 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2019

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. Res. 366

Whereas the National Family Partnership started the Red Ribbon Campaign in 1988—

(A) served the Drug Enforcement Administration for 11 years; and

(B) was murdered in the line of duty in 1985 while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the people of the United States; and

Whereas, although public awareness of illicit drugs; businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions and faith-based organizations, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during the week-long celebration of Red Ribbon Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2019;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to wear and display red ribbons during Red Ribbon Week to symbolize their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles; (3) encourages children, teens, and others to choose to live drug-free lives; and (4) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to promote the creation of drug-free communities; and

(B) to participate in drug prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

SENATE RESOLUTION 367—CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACK IN DAYTON, OHIO AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THAT TRAGEDY

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

S. Res. 367

Whereas, on August 4, 2019, a mass shooting took place in Dayton, Ohio;

Whereas the people of the United States mourn the 9 innocent lives lost in that unthinkable tragedy; Megan Betts, Monica Brinkhouse, Nicholas Cumer, Derrick Fudge, Thomas McNichols, Lois Oglesby, Saeed Saleh, Logan Turner, and Beatrice Warren-Curtis;

Whereas the people of the United States express gratitude for the heroic actions of the men and women of the Dayton Police Department who courageously responded to the shooting and saved countless lives;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for the individuals who were wounded in the attack and continue to recover;

Whereas the people of the United States commit to supporting communities and local businesses that have been devastated by gun violence to help the communities and businesses recover and rebuild;

Whereas the entire Dayton community united in support of the victims and their families; and

Whereas the shooting in Dayton, Ohio, occurred approximately 13 hours after a mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, and the people of the United States mourn the 22 innocent lives lost in that tragedy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the senseless attack that took place in Dayton, Ohio, on Sunday, August 4, 2019;

(2) honors the memory of the victims who were killed;

(3) expresses hope for a full and speedy recovery and pledges continued support for the individuals injured in the attack;

(4) offers heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the Dayton community and the families, friends, and loved ones affected by the tragedy;

(5) commits to seeking solutions to reduce gun violence, mass shootings, and acts of domestic terrorism in the United States; and

(6) honors the selfless and dedicated service of—

(A) the medical professionals and other individuals who cared for the victims in the community of Montgomery County, Ohio;

(B) the emergency response teams and law enforcement officials who responded to the call of duty; and

(C) the law enforcement officials who continue to investigate the attack.

SENATE RESOLUTION 368—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 368

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted an investigation into China’s impact on the U.S. education system; and

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received a request from the U.S. Department of Education for access to records of the Subcommittee’s investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can be suppressed by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Members of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to the U.S. Department of Education and other regulatory agencies, law enforcement officials, and entities or individuals duly authorized by Federal or State Governments, records of the Subcommittee’s investigation into China’s impact on the U.S. education system.
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Democratic leader, Mr. SCHUMER, I send to the desk a resolution on documentary production by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs recently conducted an investigation into China’s impact on the U.S. education system. The Subcommittee has now received a request from the U.S. Department of Education seeking access to records that the Subcommittee obtained during the investigation.

In keeping with the Senate’s practice under its rules, this resolution would authorize the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, to provide records, obtained by the Subcommittee in the course of its investigation, in response to this request and requests from other Federal or State government entities and officials with a legitimate need for the records.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 27—PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE CATAFALQUE SITUATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER IN CONNECTION WITH MEMORIAL SERVICES TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE HOUSE WING OF THE CAPITOL FOR THE HONORABLE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 27

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Architect of the Capitol is authorized and directed to transfer the catafalque which is situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center to the House Wing of the Capitol so that such catafalque may be used in connection with services to be conducted there for the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, late a Representative from the State of Maryland.

AUTHORIZING THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 368, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 368) to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Sub-committee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the resolution (S. Res. 368) without objection, and that the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 368) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(4) strengthen oversight and management of Federal grants and cooperative agreements by agencies by consolidating the collection and display of access to open data that has been standardized and, where appropriate, increasing transparency to the public.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the terms ‘agency’, ‘Director’, ‘Federal award’, and ‘Secretary’ have the meanings given those terms in section 6401 of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 4(a) of this Act.

SEC. 4. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING

(a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle V of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 63 the following:

“CHAPTER 64—DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING

“Sec.

6401. Definitions.

6402. Data standards for grant reporting.

6403. Guidance applying data standards for grant reporting.

6404. Agency requirements.

6401. Definitions.

“Section 6401. Definitions.

“Sec. 6402. Data standards for grant reporting.

“Sec. 6403. Guidance applying data standards for grant reporting.

“Sec. 6404. Agency requirements.

6401. Definitions.

“‘6401. Definitions.

(1) Agency.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 552(f) of title 5.

(2) Core data elements.—The term ‘core data elements’ means data elements relating to financial management, administration, or management that—

(A) are not program-specific in nature or program-specific outcome measures, as defined in section 1115(h) of this title; and

(B) are required by agencies for all or the vast majority of recipients of Federal awards for purposes of reporting.

(3) Director.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(4) Executive department.—The term ‘Executive department’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 5.

(5) Federal award.—The term ‘Federal award’—

(A) means the transfer of anything of value for a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States, including financial assistance and Governmental facilities, services, and property;

(B) includes a grant, a subgrant, a cooperative agreement, or any other transaction;

(C) does not include a transaction or agreement—

(i) that provides for conventional public information services or processes or services for the direct benefit or use of the Government; or

(ii) that provides only—

(I) direct Government cash assistance to an individual;

(II) a subsidy;

(III) a loan;

(IV) a loan guarantee; or

(V) insurance.

(6) Secretary.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the head of the standard-setting agency.

(7) Standard-setting agency.—The term ‘standard-setting agency’ means the Executive department designated under section 6402(a)(1).

(8) State.—The term ‘State’ means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

6402. Data standards for grant reporting

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DESIGNATION OF STANDARD-SETTING AGENCY.—The Director shall designate the Executive department that administers the greatest number of programs under which Federal awards are issued in a calendar year as the standard-setting agency.
§ 6403. Guidance applying data standards

(2) the Director publishes a list of those exceptions and submits the list to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives;

and (3) take into consideration the consultation required under section 6402(b).

(c) UPDATING GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every 10 years, the Director shall update the guidance issued under subsection (a).

(2) PROCEDURES.—In updating guidance under paragraph (1), the Director shall, to the maximum extent feasible, follow the procedures for the development of the data standards and guidance prescribed under this section and section 6402.

§ 6404. Agency requirements

Not later than 1 year after the date on which guidance is issued or updated under subsection (b) or (c), respectively, of section 6403, the head of each agency shall—

(c) following the advice of the Office of Management and Budget.

(b) The Director shall prescribe guidance applying the data standards established under subsection (a) to all applicable recipients of Federal awards.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards established under subsection (a) shall, to the extent reasonable and practicable—

(1) render information reported by recipients of Federal awards fully searchable and machine-readable;

(2) be nonproprietary;

(3) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies;

(4) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles; and


(d) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the data standards under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Director shall consult with—

(1) the Secretary of the Treasury to ensure that the data standards established under subsection (a) incorporate the data standards established under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);

(2) the head of each agency that issues Federal awards;

(3) recipients of Federal awards and organizations representing recipients of Federal awards;

(4) private sector experts;

(5) members of the public, including privacy experts, privacy advocates, auditors, and industry stakeholders; and

(6) State and local governments.

§§ 6405. Guidance applying data standards for grant reporting

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this chapter—

(1) the Secretary and the Director shall jointly issue guidance to all agencies directing the agencies to apply the data standards established under section 6402(a) to all applicable reporting by recipients of Federal awards; and

(2) the Director shall prescribe guidance applying the data standards established under section 6402(a) to audit-related information reported under chapter 75 of this title.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this chapter, the Director shall issue guidance requiring audit-related information reported under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, to be reported in an electronic form in accordance with the data standards established under chapter 64.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The provisions of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, or the amendments made by any Act, shall be construed to require the collection and use of data collected in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or the amendments made by any Act, if the data collected is—

(1) nonproprietary;

(2) in electronic form in accordance with the data standards established under chapter 64; and

(3) made available to the public for dissemination.

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. 150), as amended, was passed.
executive session and resume consideration of Treaties Calendar No. 5, Treaty Document No. 116-1, under the previous order; and, finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the caucus meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:19 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 10 a.m.
HONORING THE PUEBLO OF LAGUNA FEAST DAYS

HON. DEBRA A. HAALAND
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2019

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Pueblo of Laguna for hosting annual Village Feast Days. I speak in honor of the Pueblo of Laguna, our tribal members and traditions. With Laguna Village’s Saint Joseph Feast Day, celebrated on the 19th day of March and September. With Seam Village’s Feast Day celebrated on July 26th. With Mesita Village’s Feast Day celebrated on August 15th. With Encinal Village’s Feast Day celebrated on September 8th. With Paguate Village’s Feast Day celebrated on September 25th. With Paraje Village’s Feast Day celebrated on October 17th. Laguna Pueblo has six distinct villages and they each celebrate respective feast days; expect for the September Saint Joseph’s Feast day where all villages celebrate together.

Pueblo Feast Days commemorate the Catholic Saints that were given to each New Mexico pueblo when the Franciscan Priests descendent Pueblos began in the late 1500s. The Pueblo of Laguna feast is among the largest of Pueblo feast days in the Southwestern United States where thousands of people travel across New Mexico and the United States to attend. The Pueblo is located approximately forty miles west of Albuquerque.

The ancestors of the Pueblo of Laguna have occupied the region since at least 1300 A.D. When the Pueblo Indians migrated to the Rio Grande Valley from places such as Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde and Bears Eats. Laguna is Spanish for “lago” or “lake” which is in reference to a small lake that was once located within the Pueblo. The Keres language is the Indigenous language that members of Laguna speak.

The Pueblo of Laguna feast days are times for members of the Pueblo of Laguna to celebrate our culture, heritage, art and traditions by members gathering on the pueblo village plaza for traditional dances and opening our homes to visitors to share in traditional food. Feast days are open to the public, where visitors are given the opportunity to understand the Laguna peoples’ traditions by observing ceremonial dances, cultural activities and purchasing arts and crafts.

The importance of understanding all native cultures cannot be understated. Diverse cultural understanding is in furtherance of a better-informed people and nation. Knowledge of Native American culture tears down racial and cultural barriers and promotes an inclusive society. An inclusive society is necessary to national progress and the prosperity of the society. An inclusive society is necessary to national progress and the prosperity of the society. An inclusive society is necessary to national progress and the prosperity of the society. An inclusive society is necessary to national progress and the prosperity of the society. An inclusive society is necessary to national progress and the prosperity of the society.

Promoting the well-being of all people regardless of cultural and racial background.

Madam Speaker, today I request to honor the Pueblo of Laguna for hosting their annual Feast Days which are essential to the future of our community and the overall strength and resilience of all Native American people. I thank and honor the Pueblo of Laguna for their hard work and dedication to protecting their culture and traditions, which will stand for generations to come.

MARTY SEROTER
HON. DONALD NORCROSS
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Gibbsboro, New Jersey resident Marty Seroter, Camden County Town Hall Veteran Honoree.

After graduating from High School, in the late 1960s, Mr. Marty Seroter proudly enlisted and served in the United States Army. During his time of service, Mr. Seroter was stationed in Germany where he earned the rank of Specialist E-4 and as a musician, gladly served in the United States Army Band.

Following his return stateside, Mr. Seroter continued to serve through his career with Camden County as a Clerk Driver and Messenger for more than two decades. Through his distinguished career and lifetime of public service, and as an American Legion Post Bugler, Mr. Seroter actively participates in countless events performing Taps for formal county ceremonies, such as the Pearl Harbor Day services held annually on the Battleship New Jersey in the City of Camden and the County Memorial Day ceremony held to honor veterans and those interred at Potter’s Field.

As a dedicated public servant, today and for the past 30 years, Mr. Seroter continues his service as an active member of the American Legion Post 371 Honor Guard. Serving his community and fellow veterans at the American Legion Post, Mr. Seroter presently oversees the Legion Hall rentals and manages the canteen and continues to participate in the Presentation of the Colors and Taps at formal ceremonies as the Post Bugler.

In recognition of his valiant and distinguished service to our nation, Mr. Seroter was awarded and has humbly received the National Defense Service Medal for his honorable active service as a member of the Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. Marty Seroter of Gibbsboro, New Jersey who is a constant reminder of the sacrifices that our men and women of the Armed Forces make to protect and defend the liberty and freedom of all Americans.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ANNA MARIE TEODOSIO

HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Anna Marie Teodosio who peacefully entered into eternal life on October 16, 2019 while surrounded by her loving family.

Anna was born to Mary and Giuseppe Tiano on February 5, 1928 in Derby, Connecticut. She grew up in Derby along with two sisters and eight brothers and attended Derby High School.

Anna eventually met the love of her life, Alexander “Al” Teodosio, at a local dance celebrating the end of World War II. After a long courtship, Al and Anna were married on August 19, 1950 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Derby, Connecticut. Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Brooklyn, New York and eventually Akron, Ohio, where they began their family. Their love grew and flourished throughout an adventurous sixty-five year marriage.

Anna was a true inspiration and a beautiful human spirit to all that knew and loved her. Her passions were embracing her faith, spending time with family and friends, reading, playing Scrabble and card games, cooking, and rooting for Notre Dame football. She especially treasured preparing large traditional Italian Sunday afternoon dinners for her ever-growing family.

Anna, with her beloved husband Al, raised five loving children: MaryAnne Cort (Bill), Thomas Teodosio (Linda), Carol Anne Peter (Dave), Robert Teodosio (Tina), and Alex Teodosio (Stephanie).

She is survived by nine grandchildren, Christine Klaben, Kathleen Klaben (Dave Nulanz), Ellen Karns, Joseph Cort (Melissa), David Cort, Christopher Teodosio (Katherine), Alexandra Teodosio, Nicholas Teodosio and Joseph Teodosio. She is also survived by six great grandchildren, Emily Cort, Clara Cort, Charles Nulanz, Alice Karns, Charlotte Teodosio and Ava Teodosio; and by her beloved brother, William Tiano along with many close friends who knew her to be compassionate and caring through her faith and in her service to others. Anna was preceded in death by her parents; nine siblings; son, Alan; and granddaughter, Andrea Teodosio.

I am very proud to be a friend of Anna’s son, Judge Thomas Teodosio, and her daughter-in-law, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio. Anna touched many lives, and I extend my deepest sympathies to all who knew and loved her. She will be greatly missed.
INTRODUCTION OF THE COMBATING IMPLICIT BIAS IN EDUCATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Combating Implicit Bias in Education Act. My bill would create a $30 million grant program for schools to train teachers, principals and other personnel on implicit bias with respect to actual or perceived race, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.

This year, a report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found that students of color with disabilities received far more severe and frequent punishment than their white counterparts. In December, the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos eliminated the Obama Administration’s guidance seeking to curb exclusionary discipline, undermining key steps toward dismantling discriminatory discipline practices in classrooms.

In 2017, the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality released a report finding that people disproportionately think of Black girls as more adult-like and less innocent compared to their white peers. This bias has been linked to harsher treatment of Black girls in schools. Students experiencing implicit bias and even outright discrimination face far greater expulsion and suspension rates, fueling the school-to-prison pipeline and widening the student achievement gap.

This bill aims to reduce the effect of implicit bias on school discipline, academic achievement and academic attainment through research-based training for education personnel, and provides teachers with necessary tools to provide equal educational and constructive behavioral feedback.

Under my bill, the Institute of Education Sciences under the Department of Education would be tasked with evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of the training. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING ROSEMARY PARGA DURAN
HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. RoseMary Parga Duran as she retires from her position as Superintendent of Merced City School District. Throughout her 43 years in education, Dr. Parga Duran has made a positive impact on countless Merced schools and students.

Dr. Parga Duran earned her associate degree from Merced College and completed her bachelor’s degree from California State University, Fresno (Fresno State). After graduating from Fresno State in 1977, she returned to Merced County to begin her teaching career at Planada Elementary School. Later in her career, she received a master’s degree from California State University, Stanislaus and a doctorate from the University of Southern California.

In 1985, she started her career with Merced City School District as a teacher and would later become an assistant principal, principal, and in 2002 was named the district’s Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. Six years later, Dr. Parga Duran became Merced City School District’s first female superintendent.

As the leader of Merced County’s largest school district, Dr. Parga Duran has worked tirelessly to address the challenges facing the 18 schools in the district. She began her job as superintendent during the great recession and led the district through this period without any employee layoffs, while keeping the district’s budget fiscally solvent. Dr. Parga Duran was an advocate for the successful passage of Measure M, a bond which provided funds for school campuses to modernize and receive necessary safety upgrades.

Under Dr. Parga Duran’s leadership, Merced City School District received two Gold Bell Awards from the California School Boards Association for their STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) and preschool programs. She also oversaw the opening of Rivera Middle School and their STEAM Center. It is evident that Dr. Parga Duran’s contributions to the Merced City School District will continue to have an impact on our educators and future generations of leaders long after her retirement.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career and accomplishments of Dr. RoseMary Parga Duran. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor her and the positive impact she has made in the lives of students and staff as she celebrates her retirement. I wish Dr. Parga Duran, her family, and Merced City School District the best as she retires at the end of this year.

RECOGNIZING DR. MICHAEL CALIGIURI FOR HIS GROUNDBREAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF MEDICINE
HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of Dr. Michael Caligiuri who has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine’s Class of 2018, one of the single highest honors in the field of medicine and healthcare.

Dr. Caligiuri’s transformative years in Kenmore, New York, where he attended St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute. He then enrolled at the University at Buffalo to earn his undergraduate degree, and subsequently attended Stanford College for Medical School where he obtained his M.D.

Dr. Caligiuri utilized his education to the best of his ability to become a leader in his profession. He served as the CEO of The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Laboratory. He also directed The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center for fourteen years. In addition, he is the Immediate Past President of the American Association for Cancer Research, of which he was recently named a fellow.

Dr. Caligiuri has served as chairperson, or in other advisory capacities, for countless research organizations in addition to conducting several of his own research protocols. His groundbreaking research focused on the development and activation of human natural killer cells and their modulation to help treat diseases like leukemia and brain cancer. Since these discoveries, over one thousand patients with cancer have been treated with clinical protocols that were conceived in Dr. Caligiuri’s laboratory.

In 2018, Dr. Caligiuri was named the President of the City of Hope in Los Angeles, a leading cancer research and treatment center. He conducted rigorous research and combined that with an inclusive leadership style to connect other healthcare institutions together in order to ensure the highest quality patient experience and care.

Dr. Caligiuri’s breakthrough discoveries in NK leukemia and cutaneous T cell lymphoma has helped get him elected to the National Academy of Medicine, which according to The New York Times is, “the United States’ most esteemed and authoritative adviser on issues of health and medicine, and its reports can transform medical thinking around the world”.

The incredible distinction of election to the National Academy of Medicine has only been awarded to just over two thousand medical experts since 1970. Members are elected based on their professional achievement and commitment to service, and do their selfless and consequential work without any compensation. No more than eighty members are elected annually. This speaks to Dr. Caligiuri’s passion for healthcare, commitment to community service, and his overall talent as a medical professional. Complimenting the extraordinary accomplishments achieved during his career, Dr. Caligiuri is also a loving husband and a devoted father of three children.

Today we recognize Dr. Michael Caligiuri for becoming an innovative and influential leader both in the United States and around the world in not only engaging in exemplary research and treatment practices, but also advocating for the many people whose lives have been affected by the devastating reality of cancer.

HONORING ARMY PFC. NATHAN P. BROWN
HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Army Pfc. Nathan P.
Brown, who was tragically killed on Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004, when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee in Samarra, Iraq, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Nathan was a lifelong resident of South Glens Falls, New York. He enlisted in the New York Army National Guard immediately after graduating from South Glens Falls High School in 2002, in the aftermath of 9/11. Nathan was posthumously awarded The Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the New York Medal of Valor for his bravery.

Friends and family remember Nathan as a generous and positive person, a brave soldier, and a beloved member of the community.

Next week, he will be inducted into The South Glens Falls Bulldog Pride Hall of Fame, in recognition of his sacrifice and commitment.

This honor is a testament to Nathan’s selfless pride for his country. Nathan gave the ultimate sacrifice, and for that we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

I am proud to stand and honor Army Plt. Nathan D. Brown, a beloved member of the South Glens Falls Community, and a shining example of those who give their lives to protect our country and its interests. Please join me in recognizing Nathan Brown for his service, and in honor of his legacy.

HONORING GREG M. CONGER
HON. J. LUIS CORREA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Greg M. Conger and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement. Mr. Conger has been a voice for working Californians by organizing and advocating for workers’ rights. He has changed the relationship between employees and management forever. By empowering workers to stand up for themselves in the face of intense pressure, he was at the forefront of the dynamic movement that sought to build successes of recent years. Today, we celebrate not only his advocacy and success, but his future. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Greg M. Conger for his commitment to serving the community by being the greater voice for our workers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 24, 2019 during roll call no. 541, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3190, BURMA Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

RECOGNIZING WESTERN REGION DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR KARRIE SCHINDLER.
HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karrie Schindler who has been selected as the Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability’s Western Region Direct Support Professional of the Year. Ms. Schindler has dedicated her life to lifting-up and improving the lives of individuals in our community with autism. She is a beacon of compassion and dedicates her time to providing in-home care to those with disabilities so they can lead self-directed lives in their communities.

Since 2013, Ms. Schindler has provided Home and Community Habilitation care to a special woman named Maryann. Throughout the years, Ms. Schindler has helped Maryann live a full and active life and engage with her community.

Sadly, in December 2018, Maryann’s mother unexpectedly passed away. Following this tragedy, Maryann was forced to move to Florida, away from the community she loved and the support system she had fostered throughout her years with Ms. Schindler.

Late one January night, Ms. Schindler received a call from Maryann that she was at the airport and didn’t know what to do. Without hesitation, Ms. Schindler sprang into action. She drove straight to the Pittsburgh airport to pick Maryann up. It wasn’t long before Ms. Schindler and Maryann had the decision to become Life Sharing providers and welcome Maryann into their home permanently.

Madam Speaker, Karrie Schindler has demonstrated extraordinary selflessness and compassion in her work with Maryann. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Schindler for her service as an award-winning advocate and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability’s Western Region Direct Support Professional of the Year.

HONORING SIOBHAN MCVAY AS A RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING
HON. ANDY KIM
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Siobhan McVay of Delran High School in Delran, New Jersey, as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Each year, the PAEMST recognizes out-standing K–12 teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science. Recipients of the award are widely respected by their peers, displaying strong expertise in STEM education, and having made a lasting positive impact on their students. Only 108 teachers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories received this selective recognition each year.

I commend Mr. McVay for his fine work as an educator and mentor to his students, building important skills that will help them succeed in a rapidly developing world. STEM education is a building block to an increasingly complex economy that relies on a strong technological skill set. Today’s students with strong STEM backgrounds will be those that discover a cure for cancer, help to bring an end to climate change, and get an American on Mars. The important skills that Mr. McVay’s students develop from his instruction will bring important individual achievements, and will aid our nation in the future.

I’m proud to say that we have excellent quality teachers in New Jersey like Mr. McVay, and I look forward to seeing his important work develop in the growth and success of his students.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GRACE QUINN GOODPASTURE
HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Grace Quinn Goodpasture for being selected as a recipient of a Student-Athlete-Scholarship from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Grace attends the Steward School in Ashland, Virginia, where she played 4 years of Varsity Soccer, lettering all four years. She was also a member of the Varsity Cross Country and Dive team. Grace is very modest in those as well. She says community service is a core value of her family and has always been a part of her life. She has earned her Gold Award in the Girl Scouts and was a Senate Page for the Virginia Senate. Her spirit of service is something special.

I commend her on receiving this recognition for her distinguished scholastic, leadership, and sportsmanship. This recognition of her work in the community, in the classroom, and
on the athletic field is a testament to her commitment to hard work and service to others. She is an example of the leaders that we will need to guide our nation and the Virginia Commonwealth in the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Grace Goooodpasture for her achievements in her community. May God bless Grace and her family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 8TH DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN’S FIRST RESPONDERS OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today during First Responders Appreciation Month to recognize ten first responders from Wisconsin’s 8th District who received the Wisconsin State Assembly’s First Responder of the Year award. The Assembly selected and recognized the nominees below for their heroic actions, professional achievement, body of work, and length of service within the field of public safety.

The late Mitchell Lundgaard, Appleton Fire Department; Joseph Wesoloski, Ashwaubenon Department of Public Safety; Dan Rettler, Black Creek Fire Department; Lt. Jeff Engelbrecht, Green Bay Police Department; Sgt. William Tedlie, Greenville Police Department; Chief Al Tlachac, Luxemburg Community Fire Department; Chief Rick Badgley, Miller Valley Fire Department; Chief Randy Slevin, Oneida County Sheriff’s Office; Chief Rick Deutsche, Shawano County Sheriff’s Office; and Sgt. Brandon Leschke, Weyauwega Police Department.

First responders represent the best and bravest in our communities. These heroes selflessly give their time and skills to protect and serve others. I am proud to represent men and women with such a commitment to their communities and who prioritize the welfare of others before their own. Their unwavering devotion to fostering safe and strong communities is truly inspiring.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking these first responders for their service and dedication to protecting our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD MECEACHIN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. MECEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 27, 2019 avoidably detained during roll call no. 556, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 4617, the Shield Act—October 16, 2019 (by fiscal year, millions of dollars)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2020-2024</th>
<th>2020-2029</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Spending (Outlays)</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase or Decrease (−)</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
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= between $500,000 and $500,000.
** = not estimated.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply.

Yes.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030? No.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? Yes, Under Threshold.

H.R. 4617 would amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971. Most provisions in the bill are related to prohibiting the participation of foreign nationals in election-related activities, and making additional campaign expenditures and advertising purchases subject to public disclosure.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4617 would cost $2 million over the 2020-2024 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Those amounts would cover additional administrative costs for the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to ensure compliance with the bill. In 2019, the FEC received an appropriation of $71 million. Violators of the bill’s reporting requirements could be subject to civil and criminal penalties, so enforcing H.R. 4617 could increase collections of fines. Civil fines are recorded in the budget as revenues. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victim Fund, and subsequently spent without further appropriation. CBO estimates that any additional collections would not be significant in any year and over the 2020-2029 period because of the relatively small number of additional cases likely to be affected.

H.R. 4617 would impose private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) on candidates for federal office, campaign committees, political entities, and advertising platforms, among other entities. CBO expects that the aggregate cost of the mandates would be small because compliance with some of the mandates would not impose costs or because the affected entities already perform similar disclosure and reporting activities. For such entities, the new duties would impose only small incremental costs. Therefore, CBO estimates that the cost of the mandates would not exceed the private-sector threshold established in UMRA ($164 million in 2019, adjusted annually for inflation).

Title I would:

Require political campaigns to report contacts by foreign entities offering contributions or election coordination to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the FEC and to establish a policy requiring staff to report such contacts and to notify staff of that policy.

Expand the types of communication subject to existing disclosure rules under the Federal Election Campaign Act and require disclosure on Internet and digital communications.

Require online platforms that sell political advertisements and meet minimum traffic thresholds to maintain a public database of qualified political advertisements.

Require television and radio broadcasters and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that campaign communications are not purchased by a foreign national.

Title II would prohibit foreign nationals from participating in the decision making process of any election-related activity.

Contributing to super political action committees (PACs) or campaigns concerning a state or local ballot initiative or referendum.

Making campaign or advocacy expenditures for digital, broadcast, and Internet communications.

Title II would impose additional private-sector mandates by requiring corporations and labor organizations that make campaign contributions to certify that no foreign nationals participated in the decision making process related to those contributions and by requiring corporate PACs to certify that they are not under foreign control.

H.R. 4617 would impose no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs) and Andrew Laughlin (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Paperno, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD MECEACHIN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. MECEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 15, 2019 during roll call no. 556, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2385, To permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 557.
On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 95, Homeless Veteran Families Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

HONORING PATRICIA LEE AS A RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. ANDY KIM OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Lee of Lumberton Middle School in Lumberton, New Jersey, as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Each year, the PAEMST recognizes outstanding K–12 teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science. Recipients of the award are widely respected by their peers, displaying strong expertise in STEM education, and having made a lasting positive impact on their students. Only 108 teachers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories receive this selective recognition each year.

I commend Ms. Lee for her fine work as an educator and mentor to her students, building important skills that will help them succeed in a rapidly developing world. STEM education is a building block to an increasingly complex and technologically advanced economy that relies on a strong technological skill set. Today’s students with strong STEM backgrounds will be those that discover a cure for cancer, help to bring an end to climate change, and get an American on Mars. The skills that Ms. Lee’s students develop from her instruction will bring important individual achievements, and will aid our nation in the future.

I’m proud to say that we have excellent quality teachers in New Jersey like Ms. Lee, and I look forward to seeing her important work develop in the growth and success of her students.

HONORING THE SARANAC LABORATORY FOR BEING DESIGNATED A MILESTONES IN MICROBIOLOGY SITE BY THE SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Saranac Laboratory for being designated a Milestones in Microbiology site by the Society for Microbiology. I am proud to represent a district that has made such historic impacts on science and medicine.

Saranac Lake is host to many important historical sites including the Saranac Laboratory. Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau was a physician operating out of New York City when he contracted tuberculosis. He found that the climate in the North Country significantly improved his health so he moved to Saranac Lake, where he established the Adirondack Cottage Sanitarium at Saranac Lake for treatment of tuberculosis. Dr. Trudeau used his own home to study tuberculosis until it was burned down by some of the equipment. With his partners, Trudeau immediately began planning a state of the art laboratory to continue his work. Saranac Laboratory was finished in 1894 and was the only lab in the country specifically designed to study tuberculosis. Experiments were conducted there until its closure in 1935. After changing hands several times, Historic Saranac Lake faithfully restored it and opened it to the public as a museum in 2009.

On behalf of New York’s 21st Congressional District, I want to thank the Historic Saranac Lake Board of Directors for their hard work. Their success in preserving the rich history of Saranac Lake has led to this well-deserved recognition. As we look back on and celebrate the achievements of previous generations, I encourage everyone to support the North Country’s next generation of scientists and entrepreneurs.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARNOLD “BUD” STERN’S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arnold “Bud” Stern of New London, Wisconsin on celebrating his 100th birthday.

Born on November 3, 1919, Bud grew up in New London, Wisconsin and graduated from New London High School. He then attended St. Louis University and studied nursing. Upon the completion of his medical training, Mr. Stern was moved to Nevada and worked at the Hoover Dam as an industrial nurse. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Bud entered the armed services and was deployed overseas.

Bud served as a surgical nurse during World War II. His assignment was to set up field hospitals when he worked in abdominal repair surgeries. Field hospitals were mobile medical care units typically erected near the front lines of battle. Operating teams were often used to reinforce other medical units and treat soldiers who suffered non-transportable injuries. Nurses in World War II were a part of every link in the chain of evacuation established in each theater of war, and contributed to the low post-injury mortality rate among American military forces.

To commemorate Bud’s milestone birthday, the community of New London is hosting a celebration on October 27th in his honor. Friends of the New London Public Museum and the New London Heritage Historical Society captured Bud’s memories of living in New London and his service in World War II in a video to be played at the event. The Mayor of New London, Gary Henke, recognized Bud by issuing a proclamation declaring November 3 as Arnold “Bud” Stern Day.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Arnold “Bud” Stern for his service and wishing him a happy and healthy 100th birthday.

IN HONOR OF MAUREEN FRESCHET, UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE SAN MATEO CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Ms. SPEIER, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maureen Freschet as she retires from the San Mateo City Council after eight years of noteworthy service to the people of San Mateo. This service follows many years in other positions of public benefit throughout the county.

Maureen has deep roots in San Mateo. Her grandparents immigrated from Italy in the 1920’s and Maureen is just proudly of her Italian-American heritage. On one occasion in recent years, she spoke movingly from the
This one is her most cherished. She also known as “Nini,” to her grandson, Carson. Out and Kristen, as a single mother. She is now presentations on this important subject.

human trafficking and made numerous presentations and on the Executive Board of the Service League. She is also a staunch opponent of Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission.

Maureen had a strong sense of community and a passion for public safety heroes. She was the President of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club.

Many of Maureen’s most visible contributions will never have her name on them. Due to her service on the county’s transportation authority, she was involved in major projects to improve traffic and transit. As people move through the community, and despite traffic woes that are compounded by a 2 percent unemployment rate and high technology job growth that is essentially engulfing our community, travelers have Maureen to thank in part for recent and coming improvements that will benefit them for generations to come.

Maureen is an enthusiastic supporter of San Mateo’s Army unit, the 101st Airborne “Screaming Eagles,” and worked tirelessly to welcome them on the 50th anniversary of their adoption by San Mateo. She spearheaded the effort to create a memorial in Central Park to honor San Mateo’s fallen military and local public safety heroes.

Her dedication to law enforcement is multifaceted. She served on the county’s Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and on the Executive Board of the Service League. She is also a staunch opponent of human trafficking and made numerous presentations on this important subject.

Maureen was not only a pillar of the community but also a mentor to young people. She spearheaded the adoption by San Mateo of a school where her daughter, Maureen Freschet, was present, energetic, often a leader, and always a beneficial force for community improvement.

HONORING THE KNOWLES TEACHER INITIATIVE FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ANDY KIM
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Knowles Teacher Initiative of Moorestown, New Jersey, for their 20 years of work developing teachers that transform math and science education for students across the United States.

Established in 1999 by Janet H. and C. Harry Knowles, the Knowles Teacher Initiative supports a network of math and science teachers nationwide in expanding innovative practices and teaching expertise. Through their programs like the Knowles Teaching Fellowships Program and the Knowles Senior Fellows Program, Knowles brings in early-career high school math and science teachers to aid in their professional development and create a lasting network of highly qualified educators across the country.

Over their 20 years serving our nation’s teachers, Knowles has supported more than 400 Fellows who have taught math and science to more than 250,000 students. There is no doubt that the Knowles Teacher Initiative has made a lasting impact in not only the lives of the educators that took part in their fellowships, but also the students that have benefitted from the high-quality instruction stemming from Knowles programs.

I commend the Knowles Teacher Initiative for the important work they have done to help provide development opportunities for our nation’s math and science teachers. I’m proud to support their work and look forward to many impactful years to come.

HONORING THE RETURN OF THE REMAINDER OF THE TULUWAT TO THE WIYOT TRIBE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the long-awaited return of the remainder of Tuluwat to the Wiyot Tribe. This transfer of land from the City of Eureka is an exceptional gesture that recognizes the sacredness of the island to the tribe, which considers it the center of the universe.

Also known as Indian Island, the 280-acre island was home to the Wiyot people, which held its annual World Renewal Ceremony there for many hundreds of years. In the winter of 1860, white settlers coordinated attacks on Wiyot women, children, and elders while the men were away. As many as 250 unarmed Wiyot people were massacred. Indian Island was later diked and drained and a boatyard and lumber mills were built there, leaving behind a toxic legacy.

In 2000, the Wiyot Tribe purchased a 1.5-acre parcel of the island. Four years later, the City of Eureka transferred 67 acres to the tribe. In 2014, the Wiyot Tribe restored the World Renewal Ceremony to that part of the island. In December 2018, the Eureka City Council voted to repatriate the rest of its land on Tuluwat to the Wiyot Tribe. The Wiyot Tribe has worked for years to clean up toxons on the island, as well as to protect shell middens and other important sites and resources from erosion.

The Wiyot Tribe will continue to use the site for ceremonies, including at the Epitaph Village site, and to work to remove invasive Spartina densiflora on the island’s wetlands.

Madam Speaker, the repatriation of Tuluwat from the City of Eureka to the Wiyot Tribe has profound importance to the Wiyot people, whose ancestors suffered greatly during the early white settlement of the region. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this historic agreement that continues to try to heal the harms of the past.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD MEACHIN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. MEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 16, 2019 during roll call no. 558, On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 629, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1815) SEC Disclosure Effectiveness Testing Act, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) Outsourcing Accountability Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 559, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 629, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1815) SEC Disclosure Effectiveness Testing Act, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) Outsourcing Accountability Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 560, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Consider H. Res. 77, Opposing the decision to end certain United States efforts to prevent Turkish military operations against Syrian Kurdish forces in Northeast Syria. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”
TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN CUMMINGS FROM THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the loss of my colleague, Congressman Elijah Cummings. He was a true leader in Congress and had the respect of his colleagues. I feel honored for having the opportunity to work with him as his Co-chair of the Congressional Oral Health Caucus. As a former dentist, I appreciated Congressman Cummings for being an advocate for oral health and advancing many important issues in a bipartisan manner. He will be missed in the halls of Congress and I send my deepest condolences to his family.

On behalf of the American Dental Association, I would like to include in the RECORD the following statement which recognizes Congressman Cummings for his dedication to oral health:

The American Dental Association (ADA) would like to offer its sincerest condolences to the colleagues, family, friends and constituents of Representatives Elijah Cummings. Representative Cummings dedicated his life service to uplifting and empowering the people he was sworn to represent in Congress.

Since 1996, Congressman Cummings proudly represented Maryland’s 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, where we have discussed many of the complex challenges of health care in his state. Rep. Cummings understood the significance between oral health and general well-being for overall health.

As Co-chair of the Oral Health Caucus, Rep. Cummings was dedicated to increasing awareness of oral health care and to funding emerging dental research. Americans will forever be thankful for his support of initiatives that address oral health equity, including the Action for Dental Health Act. He was a staunch supporter and promoter of oral health as a part of overall health policy. Rep. Cummings knew that greater access to dental care needed to include education and awareness and made it a priority to help initiate Maryland’s first statewide oral health literacy campaign.

Rep. Cummings often said that “Our children are the future; the messages that we send to a future we will never see.” We admired his dedication to ensuring that our next generations have access to quality health care and education. Congress lost a true advocate for the people today. His willingness to work and fight for those who need him most is the biggest loss to our nation.

The ADA will sincerely miss the wisdom and dedication of Congressman Cummings to make real and lasting change with the continued promotion and collaboration of the oral health community. We will remain saddened yet dedicated to help make that lasting change as part of his legacy.

Sincerely,

Chad P. Gehani, D.D.S.,
President of the American Dental Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to circumstances beyond my control.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call No. 565; “nay” on Roll Call No. 566; and “nay” on Roll Call No. 567.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALFRED JACKSON “A.J.” POWELL

HON. DOUG COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Alfred Jackson “A.J.” Powell. A.J., as he was affectionately known by his family and friends, was a longtime resident of Quitman, Georgia. He graduated from Dixie High School and went on to study at the University of Georgia, earning a degree in Agriculture. Upon graduation, A.J. enlisted in the Army Air Corps, where he served our country honorably as a meteorologist and Ordinance Officer, ultimately achieving the rank of Captain.

A.J. had a broad and meaningful impact on his community in Quitman, Georgia. After returning from military service, he paired his love for agriculture with his experience in the Army to serve veterans in his community. He organized the first Veterans’ Farm Training program in the county, serving as an agriculture teacher for groups of veterans, and later was promoted by the State Department of Education to Supervisor for the Veterans Agriculture Program for all the counties in South Georgia.

After leaving the Department of Education, A.J. opened Powell’s Farm Supply, becoming a leading innovator in agricultural infrared photography and liquid fertilizer products. He raised beef cattle on his farm, Crooked Creek, and was actively involved in the agriculture community, assuming roles ranging from President of the Georgia Seedsmen’s Association to President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Throughout his life, A.J. served his community in a variety of capacities. Among his greatest joys was serving in his church, Quitman First Baptist Church, where he was an active member, serving in many roles, including as a Sunday school teacher and the Chairman of Deacons. First and foremost, A.J. was a man of integrity who was well known for his faith in Jesus and his love for others. He lived out Joshua 24: 15, “... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” A.J. will be forever remembered as a man of faith, diligence, and integrity. Most importantly, he will be remembered as a loyal and faithful husband to his beloved wife, Mary; father to his three children, Beth, Jay and Lisa; grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, and friend, and a man who clearly missed, but his legacy will be felt for generations to come. On behalf of the people of Georgia, I hope you will join me in celebrating his wonderful life.

HONORING MICHAEL DUNLEA AS A RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. ANDY KIM
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Dunlea of Tabernacle Elementary School in Tabernacle, New Jersey, as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Each year, the PAEMST recognizes outstanding K–12 teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science. Recipients of the award are...
widely respected by his peers, displaying strong expertise in STEM education, and having made a lasting positive impact on his students. Only 108 teachers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories receive this selective recognition each year.

I commend Mr. Dunlea for his fine work as an educator and mentor to his students, building important skills that will help them succeed in a rapidly developing world. STEM education is a building block to an increasingly complex economy that relies on a strong technological skill set. Today’s students with strong STEM backgrounds will be those that discover a cure for cancer, help to bring an end to climate change, and get an American on Mars. The important skills that Mr. Dunlea’s students develop from his instruction will bring important individual achievements, and will aid our nation in the future.

I am proud to say that we have excellent quality teachers in New Jersey like Mr. Dunlea, and I look forward to seeing his important work develop in the growth and success of his students.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JERRY EPSIN

HON. TED LIEU OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, to celebrate the life of Mr. Jerry Epstein, who passed away at the age of 96 on September 2, 2019 in Los Angeles, California. Jerry was an integral part of the development of Los Angeles County through his involvement in real estate, construction, and philanthropic causes.

Born on August 29, 1923 as the only child of Meyer and Tilda Epstein, Jerry was raised in the Bronx and Mount Vernon, New York. Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Jerry enlisted in the military, serving as an enlisted man and commissioned officer in the United States Army and Air Force. He flew in B-17 and B-29 bombers and served on active duty during multiple island invasions in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

After the war, Jerry enrolled at Emory University, where he met the love of his life, Pat. They were married on December 26, 1948 and celebrated more than 66 years together before she passed on July 22, 2015.

In 1949 Jerry and Pat moved to Los Angeles, where Jerry initially worked for Pat’s family business. Jerry became involved in real estate, including the development and management of multi-family rental apartments, as well as the initial creation and development of Marina del Rey, now the largest pleasure boat harbor community in the world.

Jerry also served on several local and state public bodies focused on transportation infrastructure and public building construction. He was appointed to the Los Angeles County Economy and Efficiency Commission in the 1970s and was the first chairman of the Energy Commission for the City and County of Los Angeles. Jerry also served as a chairman of the California Transportation Commission and vice chair of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

As a trustee of Saint John’s Hospital and Health Center Foundation in Santa Monica for more than 40 years, Jerry felt great pleasure working with the compassionate sisters, doctors, nurses and staff treating and healing patients. Jerry was also chair of the Development Committee when they oversaw the $500 million reconstruction of Saint John’s after the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Philanthropic causes played a big role in Jerry’s life—he and Pat were honored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Boy Scouts and Girls Club of Venice, the Brothers of America, Portals, and Saint John’s Hospital; they also supported many charities, including the Lucille and Edward R. Roybal Foundation, the Jewish Federation, and Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles.

Jerry’s impact on the communities he helped build from the ground up is indelible. Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and I are blessed to have known and worked with Jerry on issues of importance in Southern California. May his commitment to service inspire those of us working toward a brighter future.

HONORING WILLIAM M. MOONEY, JR.

HON. NITA M. LOWEY OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William M. Mooney, Jr. as he prepares for his retirement from the Westchester County Association (WCA), where he currently serves as President and CEO.

First elected to lead the Westchester County Association in 2004, Bill Mooney has distinguished himself as one of the premier advocates for the Lower Hudson Valley’s business and banking communities. Under Bill’s steadfast leadership, the WCA transformed from a network of business interests to a formidable organization focused on fostering economic growth and development in Westchester County and beyond.

Counted among Bill’s numerous accomplishments are helping to launch The Blueprint for Westchester, a groundbreaking campaign that resulted in the repurposing, reactivation, and redevelopment of millions of square feet of underutilized space in Westchester County. With Bill at the helm, the WCA also managed a $9.8 million federal workforce development grant—the largest such grant in the history of Westchester County—resulting in hundreds of jobs for Hudson Valley residents.

Beyond his prowess as a business leader, Bill has always been dedicated to giving back to the community. Bill’s philanthropic efforts have directly benefitted the United Way of Westchester and Putnam Counties, the American Heart Walk, the Westchester Partnership for Economic Development, the Red Cross of Rockland County, and countless other non-profits and educational organizations.

Bill Mooney has dedicated his career to making Westchester County a desirable place in which to live and work. Bill’s achievements have left an indelible mark on the lives of so many, and his legacy will be remembered long after he has left the WCA. Through his tireless efforts, William M. Mooney, Jr.’s prediction that Westchester County’s best days lie ahead seems certain to come true.

HONORING CHRISTINE CARPENTER
AS IOWA’S CANCER CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor breast cancer survivors across Iowa. I want to recognize Christine Carpenter as a champion and advocate for Iowa women with breast cancer.

Christine was diagnosed with breast cancer 26 years ago—and won. She took her experience with breast cancer and turned into a mission. She is now a leading voice with the Iowa Breast Cancer Advocacy Network, a valuable member of the Iowa Beyond Pink Team, and a frequent face here on Capitol Hill.

I’ve had the chance to meet with Christine as she fights for research funding and advocates for legal changes that will better serve Iowans, and all women, with breast cancer. If you or a loved one in Iowa have experienced breast cancer, you’ve likely either met Christine or benefited from the work she’s done. She helped ensure that those on Medicaid receive treatment for breast and cervical cancers—even if they didn’t qualify under the standard programs. Through her persistent advocacy, Christine was able to protect Iowa women who are most in need.

Christine is the right woman to have on your side and fierce advocate for breast cancer survivors. That is why it is no surprise that Christine was awarded the Iowa Cancer Champion of the Year 2019. Christine’s “Iowa-Nice” approach has ensured that all our federally elected officials from Iowa are supporting important breast cancer reform legislation.

In honor of Christine and Iowa’s breast cancer story, and calling on my House colleagues to sign onto the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act. This legislation will waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility and the 5-month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance for those with metastatic breast cancer. Metastatic breast cancer is when that cancer has spread beyond the breast and into other organs. Devastatingly, it cannot be cured. It is estimated that nearly 160,000 women in the United States have this terminal form of breast cancer. As we work toward a cure, it is important that we provide these women and their families with the financial peace of mind they need in this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY MAYOR TODD STRANGE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Todd Strange, the 56th mayor of Montgomery, Alabama, on his decade of service to his city, his state and to the people of Alabama. Mayor Strange’s outstanding record in office has been guided by his commitment to restoring and ensuring Montgomery’s economic vitality, his unique sense of humor and, most importantly, his deep and...
unwavered love for his city. Since taking office on March 23, 2009, Mayor Strange has been a strong and able leader, who has consistently put people over politics, and has remained resistant to the divisions commonplace in today’s political climate. He leaves the City of Montgomery a better place for his excellent leadership.

Long interested in the complexities and practical applications of politics, Mayor Strange graduated from Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama before continuing on to earn his degree in Political Science from Montevallo University. After graduating, Mayor Strange took the opportunity to try his own hand at politics, serving as chairman of the Montgomery County Commission and as Director of the Alabama Department of Commerce. During this time, Mayor Strange was instrumental in coordinating efforts that resulted in substantial job growth and economic revitalization throughout the city, including working with many partners to bring the Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Facility of Alabama to Montgomery.

Over the course of his career, Mayor Strange also worked in the private sector, ably taking on leadership roles in the automotive and telecommunications fields. Mayor Strange served as President, CEO and Co-owner of Blount-Strange Automotive Group, where he oversaw hundreds of employees, and held several leadership roles within South Central Bell Company (now AT&T). He further served as Senior Vice President of Administration of Blount International, Ltd. and President and CEO of Blount Development Corporation.

Mayor Strange came into office winning a special election after his predecessor, Mayor Bobby Bright, was elected to the United States House of Representatives. His election came on the heels of the economic recession, evident in the city’s operating budget. Over the following six years, Mayor Strange worked diligently to continue revitalization in his city, making use of major sporting events, conferences, new jobs and economic development to drive revenue. By 2015, the City of Montgomery closed out the fiscal year with over $200 million in the coffers.

Further, during his time as mayor, Mayor Strange made use of new technologies to cut costs and keep the city safe, implementing a Smart City Initiative, which makes use of artificial intelligence to assess roads for paving projects. The initiative utilizes cutting edge surveillance and sanitation technology in order to streamline efficiency; and uses in-house software technology to keep costs in check. The project symbolizes Mayor Strange’s commitment to finding practical, cost-effective solutions to create a use of all that modern technology has to offer, in order for the city to run as smoothly as possible.

Mayor Strange has served as Chairman of the Montgomery Business Committee for the Arts, Chairman of the Capital City Club and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the City of Montevallo. He was formerly the Chairman of the University of Montevallo National Alumni Association, the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, the President of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind Foundation, the Board of Montgomery Riverfront Development Committee and the Chairman of the Montgomery Riverfront Alliance. A testament to his enduring legacy and impact, Mayor Strange has been honored with myriad awards and recognition, including: The Business and Professional Women Boss of the Year Award, the March of Dimes River Region Citizen of the Year Award, the Auburn University at Montgomery Outstanding Community Leader Award and Time Magazine’s Quality Dealer Award.

Throughout his long and impressive career, Mayor Strange has been blessed to be supported by his wife Linda, his two daughters, Jennifer and Elizabeth, and his grandchildren. The strength provided by his family has allowed Mayor Strange to pursue his professional successes and, certainly, his commitment to honoring family values has carried over to his service as mayor.

On a personal note, I have greatly enjoyed working with Mayor Strange on the federal issues that matter most to Montgomery and the River Region. I’m especially proud of the work that our community and, especially, the work that Mayor Strange and his office have done to make the 187th Air National Guard Home to the new F-35 Lightning II Jets, resulting in the creation of hundreds of jobs and tens of millions of dollars in economic investment. As we usher in this new era for the City of Montgomery, I know that Mayor Strange’s legacy will be the foundation upon which others will lead. While he may be retiring from his service as Mayor, I know he will still be an active, lifelong advocate on behalf of the people of the City of Montgomery and the River Region.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Todd Strange for his outstanding service as mayor of the City of Montgomery.

HONORING JASON ROSS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank a truly great American, my District Chief of Staff, Jason Ross. After five years of dedication to our country and the communities of Texas’ Fourth Congressional District, Jason is departing from my office to return to the private sector with a record of extraordinary achievement and the gratitude of thousands of Texans whom he has served faithfully.

Madam Speaker, I don’t have the words to accurately or adequately convey my gratitude for Jason’s commitment, dedication, devotion and loyalty to this endeavor over the past five years.

Since Day 1 in January 2015, I have trusted Jason with charting a course for our district operations to the more than 700,000 Texans across 18 counties. Now, almost 5 years later, there have been a single day where I have not been rewarded for that decision.

Along the way, I’ve been witness to and credited for so many great and wonderful things that have transpired in our district—but always knowing that the credit belongs to and has resulted from the work of everyone on staff, under Jason’s inspiring leadership.

Personally, I could never have expected or deserved a better supporter, defender, confidant and friend than Jason Ross.

I was once told that if the only prayer you ever say in your life is “thank you,” but if you say it with genuine praise and glory to God, then you’ve both said and prayed enough. So, on behalf of Texas’ Fourth Congressional District, I would like to formally honor Jason Ross on the 6 years of dedicated service to our constituents and this nation by saying... Thank you, Jason.

TRIBUTE TO GREGORY GARCIA

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Gregory Garcia who passed away on Friday, October 4, 2019. Mr. Garcia dedicated his life to community and education. He is survived by wife of 42 years, Margaret; his daughters Christine, Gina, and Glinda; son Gregory Anthony; and his sister Leila Ramos. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Garcia was born and raised in San Antonio. Texas, graduating from Central Catholic High School in 1958. A proud alumni of Texas A&M University, he graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts in Business. There, he actively participated in the Corps of Cadets.

After extensive work in the private sector for 20 years, he heard the call to return and serve the alma mater that he so loved. Mr. Garcia was incredibly active in our community and his involvement was only matched by his desire to make San Antonio the best it can possibly be. During his time with the Texas A&M University System, he served as Vice Chancellor of Governmental Relations. He partnered with his dear friends, the late Senator Frank Madla, in establishing a university on San Antonio’s Southside. He has since been recognized as a founding father of Texas A&M University—San Antonio.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I acknowledge the passing of Mr. Gregory Garcia. San Antonio and its surrounding communities mourn the loss of a great pillar who dedicated his life to the service of others. I thank Mr. Garcia for everything he has done for San Antonians, the entire state of Texas, and for his fellow Aggies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 21, 2019

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Chamber on October 18, 2019, to attend a funeral in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call No. 565; no on Roll Call No. 566; and yes on Roll Call No. 567.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.
This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s Record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 23

10 a.m. Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To receive a closed briefing on the Navy’s “Spectrum of Conflict” strategic framework.
SVC–217

10 a.m. Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act.
SH–216

2:30 p.m. Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
To hold hearings to examine United States policy and assistance in Syria.
SD–124

2:30 p.m. Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation
To hold hearings to examine successes and unfinished business in the Western Balkans.
SD–419

OCTOBER 24

9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vice Admiral Charles A. Richard, USN, to be Admiral and Commander, United States Strategic Command, Department of Defense.
SD–538

10 a.m. Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine data ownership, focusing on exploring implications for data privacy rights and data valuation.
SD–466

OCTOBER 29

9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lisa W. Hershman, of Indiana, to be Chief Information Officer, and Robert John Sandor, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.
SD–466
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5907–S5929

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2648–2654, S. Res. 366–368, and S. Con. Res. 27. Page S5922

Measures Reported:

S. 2132, to promote security and provide justice for United States victims of international terrorism, with amendments. Page S5922

Measures Passed:

Providing for the Use of the Catafalque: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 27, providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the House wing of the Capitol for the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, late a Representative from the State of Maryland. Pages S5909, S5927

Authorizing the Production of Records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations: Senate agreed to S. Res. 368, to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Pages S5926–27, S5927

Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act: Senate passed H.R. 150, to modernize Federal grant reporting, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. Pages S5927–28

Treaty on the Republic of North Macedonia—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of North Macedonia (Treaty Doc. 116–1), taking action on the following motion and amendments proposed thereto:

Pending:

McConnell Amendment No. 946, to change the enactment date. Page S5909

McConnell Amendment No. 947 (to Amendment No. 946), of a perfecting nature. Page S5909

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 84 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 326), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the treaty. Pages S5915–16

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the treaty, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, and the time until 12 noon be equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; and that all post-cloture time on the treaty expire at 12 noon, and Senate vote on ratification of the treaty. Pages S5916

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Executive Communications:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—326) Page S5916

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:19 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on pages S5928–29.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 4767–4777; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 647–649 were introduced. Pages H8297–98

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H8298–H8300

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2514, to make reforms to the Federal Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering laws, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–245, Part 1);

H.R. 4617, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–246, Part 1); and

H. Res. 646, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2513) to ensure that persons who form corporations or limited liability companies in the United States disclose the beneficial owners of those corporations or limited liability companies, in order to prevent wrongdoers from exploiting United States corporations and limited liability companies for criminal gain, to assist law enforcement in detecting, preventing, and punishing terrorism, money laundering, and other misconduct involving United States corporations and limited liability companies, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–246, Part 1).

H.R. 2514, to make reforms to the Federal Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering laws, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–245, Part 1);

H.R. 4617, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–246, Part 1); and

H. Res. 646, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2513) to ensure that persons who form corporations or limited liability companies in the United States disclose the beneficial owners of those corporations or limited liability companies, in order to prevent wrongdoers from exploiting United States corporations and limited liability companies for criminal gain, to assist law enforcement in detecting, preventing, and punishing terrorism, money laundering, and other misconduct involving United States corporations and limited liability companies, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–246, Part 1).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Gomez to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H8297

Recess: The House recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Pages H8263

Communication from the Clerk—Office of Congressional Ethics: Pursuant to section 1(k) of House Resolution 895, One Hundred Tenth Congress, and section 104(c) of House Resolution 6, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, the Clerk transmitted to the Speaker the following individuals each have signed an agreement not to be a candidate for the office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress for purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 until at least 3 years after they are no longer a member of the board or staff of the Office of Congressional Ethics: David Skaggs, Allison Hayward, Belinda Pinckney, Karan English, James Eagen, Michael Barnes, Paul Vinovich, Lynn Westmoreland, Omar Ashmawy, Jeffrey Brown, William Cable, Annie Cho, Helen Eisner, Mary Flanagan, Samuel McHale, Gabrielle Piper, Sean Quinn, Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman, and Paul Solis. Page H8265

Recess: The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 3:29 p.m. Page H8265–66

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2019: H.R. 4406, amended, to amend the Small Business Act to improve the small business development centers program, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 375 yeas to 25 nays, Roll No. 569; Pages H8266–68, H8280–81

Women’s Business Centers Improvements Act of 2019: H.R. 4405, to amend the Small Business Act to improve the women’s business center program; Pages H8268–74

SCORE for Small Business Act of 2019: H.R. 4407, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 389 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 570; and

Establishing Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within the Small Business Administration: H.R. 4387, to establish Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within the Small Business Administration. Pages H8277–78

Recess: The House recessed at 4:26 p.m. and reconvened at 6:22 p.m. Page H8278

Question of Privilege: Representative Biggs rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a resolution. Upon examination of the resolution, the Chair determined that the resolution qualified. Subsequently, the House agreed to the Hoyer motion to table H. Res. 647, condemning and censuring Adam Schiff, Representative of California’s 28th Congressional District, by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 185 nays, Roll No. 568. Pages H8279–80

Providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the House wing of the Capitol: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and agree to S. Con. Res. 27, providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the House wing of the Capitol
for the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, late a representative of the State of Maryland.

Senate Referrals: S. 2258 was held at the desk. S. 2635 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. S. Con. Res. 27 was held at the desk.

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate today and message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H8277.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8279–80, H8280–81, and H8281. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2019
Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2513, the “Corporate Transparency Act of 2019”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2513, the “Corporate Transparency Act of 2019”. The rule provides one hour of general debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in Part A of 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 makes in order only those amendments printed in Part B of the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in Part B of the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, McHenry, Burgess, and Davidson of Ohio.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the status of the Consolidated Audit Trail, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Science, Oceans, Fisheries, and Weather, to hold hearings to examine research and innovation, focusing on ensuring America’s economic and strategic leadership, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine international efforts to increase energy efficiency and opportunities to advance energy efficiency in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the impact of Turkey’s offensive in northeast Syria, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joshua A. Deahl, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Deborah J. Israel and Andrea L. Hertzfeld, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Robert Anthony Dixon, to be United States Marshal for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine sanctuary jurisdictions, focusing on the impact on public safety and victims, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, hearing entitled “Realizing the Conservation Benefits of Precision Agriculture”, 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Ship and Submarine Maintenance: Cost and Schedule Challenges”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, hearing entitled “Long Over Due: Exploring the Pregnant Workers’ Fairness Act (H.R. 2694)”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The End of Affordable Housing? A Review of the Trump Administration’s Plans to Change Housing Finance in America”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “An Examination of the Decline of Minority Depository Institutions and the Impact on Underserved Communities”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation, begin hearing entitled “Human Rights in South Asia: Views from the State Department and the Region”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation, continue hearing entitled “Human Rights in South Asia: Views from the State Department and the Region”, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment, hearing entitled “Protecting the Good Friday Agreement from Brexit”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.


Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing on legislation to amend the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act or ‘PROMESA,’ and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing entitled “No More Standoffs: Protecting Federal Employees and Ending the Culture of Anti-Government Attacks and Abuse”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “Metro: Report Card for America’s Subway”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4617, the “Stopping Harmful Interference in Elections for a Lasting Democracy Act”, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations, hearing entitled “Native 8(a) Contracting: Emerging Issues”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.


Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on H.R. 4360, the “VA Overpayment Accountability Act”; H.R. 592, the “Protect Veterans from Financial Fraud Act of 2019”; H.R. 1030, the “Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act”; H.R. 4165, the “Improving Benefits for Underserved Veterans Act”; H.R. 4183, the “Identifying Barriers and Best Practices Study Act”; H.R. 628, the “WINGMAN Act”; H.R. 1424, the “Fallen Warrior Battlefield Cross Memorial Act”; H.R. 1911, the “SFC Brian Woods Gold Star and Military Survivors Act”; legislation to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from ALS; and legislation to permit appellants to appear before the Board of Veterans’ Appeals via picture and voice transmission from locations outside the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), 10:30 a.m., SVC–217.


Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Solving the Climate Crisis: Natural Solutions to Cutting Pollution and Building Resilience”, 2 p.m., 1302 Longworth.

Joint Meetings
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine reform in Armenia, 2 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD
Week of October 22 through October 25, 2019

Senate Chamber
On Tuesday, Senate will continue consideration of the protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of North Macedonia (Treaty Doc. 116–1), post-cloture, and vote on ratification of the treaty at 12 noon.

Following disposition of the treaty, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Andrew P. Bremberg, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: October 23, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine United States policy and assistance in Syria, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: October 23, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to receive a closed briefing on the Navy’s “Spectrum of Conflict” strategic framework, 10 a.m., SVC–217.

October 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vice Admiral Charles A. Richard, USN, to be Admiral and Commander, United States Strategic Command, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: October 22, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the status of the Consolidated Audit Trail, 10 a.m., SD–538.

October 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine data ownership, focusing on exploring implications for data privacy rights and data valuation, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: October 22, Subcommittee on Science, Oceans, Fisheries,
Weather, to hold hearings to examine research and innovation, focusing on ensuring America’s economic and strategic leadership, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

October 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: October 22, to hold hearings to examine international efforts to increase energy efficiency and opportunities to advance energy efficiency in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: October 23, to hold hearings to examine improving American economic competitiveness through water resources infrastructure, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: October 24, to hold hearings to examine treating substance misuse in America, focusing on scams, shortfalls, and solutions, 10:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: October 22, to hold hearings to examine the impact of Turkey’s offensive in northeast Syria, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

October 23, Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, to hold hearings to examine successes and unfinished business in the Western Balkans, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: October 22, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joshua A. Deahl, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Deborah J. Israel and Andrea L. Hertzfeld, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Robert Anthony Dixon, to be United States Marshal for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–342.

October 24, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, with the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold a joint hearing to examine E-Rulemaking comment systems, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: October 22, to hold hearings to examine sanctuary jurisdictions, focusing on the impact on public safety and victims, 10 a.m., SD–226.

October 24, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2511, to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide the Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and Supreme Court Police with the authority to protect the Chief Justice of the United States, any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and other individuals in any location, and the nominations of Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Steven J. Menashi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second 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, Karen Spencer Marston, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Richard Earnest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Sarah E. Pitlyk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Anuraag Singhal, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Daniel Mack Traynor, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota, and David M. DeVillers, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: October 22, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

October 24, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: October 23, to hold hearings to examine marijuana and America’s health, focusing on questions and issues for policy makers, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, October 23, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “TBA”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn. This hearing is closed.

Committee on Education and Labor, October 23, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions; and Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, joint hearing entitled “The Future of Work: Preserving Worker Protections in the Modern Economy”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, October 23, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Sabotage: The Trump Administration’s Attack on Health Care”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

October 23, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled “Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Solutions for Planes, Trains and Everything Beyond Automobiles”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

October 24, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled “Reauthorizing Brand USA and the U.S. SAFE WEB Act”, 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, October 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “An Examination of Facebook and Its Impact on the Financial Services and Housing Sectors”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, October 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Betrayal of our Syrian Kurdish Partners: How Will American Foreign Policy and Leadership Recover?”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

October 23, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, and Trade, hearing entitled “The Trump Administration’s FY 2020 Budget and U.S. Policy toward Latin America and the Caribbean”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, October 23, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2932, the “Homeland Security for Children Act”; H.R. 3469, the “Covert Testing and Risk Mitigation Improvement Act of 2019”; H.R. 3787, the “DHS Countering Unmanned Aircraft Systems Coordinator Act”; H.R. 4237, the “Advancing Cybersecurity Diagnostics and Mitigation Act”; H.R. 4402, the “Inland Waters Security Review Act”; H.R. 4713, the “Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and

Committee on the Judiciary, October 23, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4, the “Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019”; and H.R. 565, the “AMIGOS Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, October 23, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 934, the “Health Benefits for Miners Act of 2019”; H.R. 935, the “Miners Pension Protection Act”; and H.R. 2579, the “Hardrock Leasing and Reclamation Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, October 23, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Examining the Oil Industry’s Efforts to Suppress the Truth about Climate Change”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

October 23, Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled “The Trump Administration’s Syria Policy: Perspectives from the Field”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, October 23, Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, joint hearing entitled “Space Weather: Advancing Research, Monitoring, and Forecasting Capabilities”, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, October 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Prison to Proprietorship: Entrepreneurship Opportunities for the Formerly Incarcerated”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, October 23, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “The Pebble Mine Project: Process and Potential Impacts”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.


Committee on Ways and Means, October 23, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4742, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on nicotine used in vaping, etc.; H.R. 4716, the “Inhaler Coverage and Access Now Act”; H.R. 1922, the “Restoring Access to Medication Act of 2019”; and H.R. 3708, the “Primary Care Enhancement Act of 2019”, 1 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: October 22, to hold hearings to examine reform in Armenia, 2 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.

October 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine anti-corruption initiatives to fight emerging methods of foreign bribery, 10 a.m., 2128, Rayburn Building.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, October 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of North Macedonia (Treaty Doc.116–1), post-cloture, and vote on ratification of the treaty at 12 noon.

Following disposition of the treaty, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Andrew P. Bremberg, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Tuesday, October 22

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE
Axne, Cynthia, Iowa, E1320
Beatty, Joyce, Ohio, E1321
Castro, Joaquin, Tex., E1322
Collins, Doug, Ga., E1319
Correa, J. Luis, Calif., E1315
Costa, Jim, Calif., E1314
Eshoo, Anna G., Calif., E1317
Gallagher, Mike, Wisc., E1316, E1317
Granger, Kay, Tex., E1314, E1319
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