The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POCAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:
WASHINGTON, DC,
October 29, 2019.
I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK POCAN 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 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an invasive pest that is wreaking havoc on farms and forests nationwide and is giving Pennsylvania agricultural producers a major headache. I am talking about the spotted lanternfly. This native Asian insect has been found in at least 14 different counties in Pennsylvania and has spread to our neighbors in Maryland and New Jersey as well.
The spotted lanternfly feeds on sap, leaving all the plants that it touches weakened. The residue that the spotted lanternflies leave behind promotes mold growth which destroys many plants and crops. The spotted lanternfly has a diverse appetite, feeding on more than 70 different kinds of plants. From fruit trees to hardwoods and nursery industries, so many of the sectors of Pennsylvania’s agricultural industry are subject to these pests.
In Pennsylvania alone, it is estimated $18 billion in agriculture is at risk. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has issued a checklist that all residents should consult to check for spotted lanternfly egg masses. These things include camping equipment, firewood, outdoor children’s toys, like playscapes and sandboxes, and more. By the end of the year, most adult spotted lanternflies will be dead. However, residents are encouraged to rid their property of any egg masses that they find by dousing them in alcohol.
Thankfully, research is being done to look into the best ways to combat this pest and eradicate it from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture recently awarded the Pennsylvania State University a $7.3 million grant to support a team of researchers from a variety of disciplines. It is a good investment if we can save $18 billion worth of agriculture damage.
These funds will be combined with an additional $5 million in investments from growers and landowners—private citizens who agreed to work with researchers on this project. Researchers and extension educators from Penn State will be joined by additional experts from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Virginia Tech, University of Delaware, the Universities of Rhode Island, Temple, Rutgers, Cornell, and the Northeastern IPM Center.
With continued education and research into this invasive pest, we can get closer to finding a solution to dealing with the spotted lanternfly and alleviating Pennsylvania’s agricultural producers of this threat.

USMCA
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.
Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Democratic colleagues across the aisle to end their partisan impeachment inquiry and instead focus on an issue that will actually improve the lives of our constituents and supercharge the already roaring American economy; that is, bringing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the USMCA, to this floor for a vote.
Mr. Speaker, ratifying this landmark trade deal would generate a whole host of benefits, including growing the economy by tens of billions of dollars and supporting hundreds of thousands of American jobs and giving farmers more access to sell their products beyond our borders.
According to a recent report from the International Trade Commission, the USMCA would raise the United States’ GDP by more than $68 billion and create nearly 200,000 new jobs. The study also found that the USMCA would have a positive impact on trade by increasing U.S. exports and imports to Canada and Mexico by billions of dollars.
The benefits don’t stop there. The agreement would benefit farmers across the country and in my district in North Carolina. Under the USMCA, U.S. dairy farmers would be able to more than triple their access to the Canadian dairy market. This would be a

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

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H8544
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
October 29, 2019

large win for Iredell County, the top dairy producing county in North Carolina, as our dairy producers will gain wider access to a bigger marketplace.

Along with dairy, the USMCA would boost North Carolina’s poultry producers—a $37 billion industry that supports millions of jobs in my State. Early estimates show that poultry exports to Canada will grow astronomically because the agreement increases tariff rate quotas for U.S. poultry and egg exports to Canada. The agreement also eliminates barriers facing U.S. dairy and poultry exports to Canada which will further unleash economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason the USMCA enjoys broad support from Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. stakeholders, as well as a majority of this House on both sides of the aisle: Because the upside for our country is undisputed.

Ratifying this agreement would be a historic victory for our economy, for our workers, and for our farmers. The President and his team should be commended for a job well done, and now it is time for this House to quit stalling and to act. The window to pass the USMCA is closing, and I stand ready to vote for this deal and to get it across the finish line.

I ask my Democratic colleagues to suspend their blind hatred of this President and bring the USMCA to the floor for a simple up-or-down vote. We need to stop thinking about this in terms of giving President Trump a political victory and start thinking about giving the American people an economic victory. That is why we all were sent here in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, let’s pass the USMCA now.

MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the College Affordability Act, a comprehensive overhaul of our higher education system that just makes sense.

I urge my colleagues in the committee today, and I hope we can move this bill to the floor and the President’s desk even faster. As my good friend, Chairman Elijah Cummings, said: Our children are messengers we send to the future we will never see.

It is time to invest in their future and give all Americans the good, quality higher education that they deserve.

A LASTING LEGACY FOR ZIMMERMAN

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zimmerman City Administrator Randy Piascik who recently celebrated his 25th anniversary with the city.

Wherever you are in Zimmerman, you can see Randy’s work. Randy had a major hand in improvements and development of the city. From Zimmerman Middle School to the latest apartment complex in downtown Zimmerman, Randy has facilitated its construction and completion. In his office, Randy proudly displays an article boasting Zimmerman as one of the 10 fastest growing cities in Minnesota, in major part thanks to him.

The legacy of his work proves how much Randy loves Zimmerman. We hope he continues for many years to grow the city with the thoughtfulness and care he has shown for nearly three decades.

Congratulations, Randy, and thank you for your 25 years of service to the people and city of Zimmerman.

HOMETOWN HOCKEY PLAYER SUCCEEDS IN THE NHL

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a graduate of Blaine High School in my district, St. Cloud Husky Jonny Brodzinski, for signing a contract with the NHL San Jose Sharks.

Following Jonny’s successful career at Blaine High School, he went on to play for St. Cloud State University, which is also in Minnesota’s Sixth Congressional District. He spent there for three seasons with the great Huskies. His hometown watched and cheered him on as he advanced to the American Hockey League to play for the Ontario Reign and celebrated when he was signed by the Los Angeles Kings, officially making him an NHL hockey player. As he joins the San Jose Sharks, we will be there to show our support.

Congratulations, Jonny. We are proud you call Minnesota’s Sixth District and the State of Minnesota your home. We will continue to cheer you on as you play the game we all love.

ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA’S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, THANK YOU ASHLEY KOHLS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ashley Kohls from the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association for her commitment and service to our State’s agriculture community and to congratulate her on her new role as the executive director of the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Association.

During her time as the executive director of the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association and a member of our Agriculture Advisory Committee, Ashley has worked closely with our office, educating members and our staff about agriculture and cattle farming, in particular. As a cattle farmer herself, Ashley and her husband, Craig, run a fourth-generation family farm with their children, Aver and Zephy.

Ashley is a strong leader and an example to young women who are interested in the agricultural industry. As an example, she participated as a panelist at our annual Young Women’s Leadership Program where she shared with the high school-aged women what it is like to run a farm, be a mother, and run a large-scale advocacy association. It was an honor to have her participation.

Nebraska is going to be lucky to have you. We wish you and your family the best.

THE HONORABLE MAYOR TOM RYAN: A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mayor Tom Ryan, a great public servant for the city of Blaine in Minnesota’s Sixth Congressional District. Mayor Ryan’s life is the definition of public service.

Mayor Ryan grew up in St. Paul. He was drafted and served in the U.S. Army in South Korea. He was honorably discharged in 1966 and returned home to Minnesota where he settled in what is now the city of Blaine. For decades he has served the city as a councilman and now mayor. He also serves as co-leader of Blaine’s Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program which provides community support to our servicemembers and their families.

Recently, Mayor Ryan received the Seven Seals Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. This award recognizes his commitment to help servicemembers find work upon their return home.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mayor Ryan, for the city of Blaine, and for our servicemembers, and congratulations him on his Seven Seals Award.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER PROFESSOR EUGENIA PAULUS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Eugenia Paulus for her Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Professor Paulus for her Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Professor
Paulus teaches chemistry at North Hennepin Community College in Minnesota’s Sixth Congressional District.

Professor Paulus has been mentoring students at North Hennepin Community College and participating as a science fair judge for local high schools through the North Hennepin mentoring program for approximately 15 years. During this time, Professor Paulus has mentored about 100 students with amazing results. Students participating in her mentoring program are 40 percent more likely to graduate than the Minnesota average.

This Presidential Award is not the first time Professor Paulus has been recognized for her success with students. In fact, she was previously awarded for extraordinary undergraduate teaching from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. She has also received the annual Student Life Faculty Excellence Award which she received from North Hennepin Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Professor Paulus on receiving the Presidential Award. She deserves it.

HONORING STEVE TAMAYO FOR LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION TO NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that September 10, 2019, was a very special day for an infant child who had been severely neglected by her mother. And had it not been for the quick action by members of the Tega Cay Police Department located in South Carolina, the abuse would have continued.

Four officers—Sergeant Vince Holland, Officer Matt Boyd, Officer Matt Connolly, and Officer Billy Donahue—responded to a call at 6 p.m. from employees of the Tega Cay Walmart who were concerned about a mother who was with an infant who, in the words of the officers, was “filthy” and in dire need of help.

The officers immediately reacted to the situation by cleaning the infant and giving food, diapers, and other aid to the child. The officers stayed with the child while the South Carolina Department of Social Services was notified and the child was taken into emergency custody by the agency, along with two other children who were removed from the home.

The mother was charged with three felony drug charges, shoplifting, and cruelty to a child. In the words of Chief Steve Parker, “That little baby did nothing wrong.”

Because of the action of these brave officers who showed compassion and empathy, three children are now out of danger and living in a safe environment.

The four officers of the Tega Cay Police Department lived out the words of Winston Churchill, who said, there are times when doing your best is not good enough; we must do what is required.

Sergeant Vince Holland, Officer Matt Boyd, Officer Matt Connolly, and Officer Billy Donahue were example of the saying, “to live is to serve.”

HONORING STEVE TAMAYO FOR LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION TO NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Steve Tamayo in recognition of Native American Heritage Month for his lifetime contributions in the arts and the preservation of Native American culture.

Steve’s passion has been fueled by the desire that was taken away from the indigenous people of this land. For centuries, cultural teachings have been passed down through art. Symbols, colors, patterns, and construction techniques are narratives that reflect values and beliefs of traditional Native American life. American history is bound in the antiquity of its Native people.

We are proud of the role Mr. Tamayo has played in ensuring that we can all learn and appreciate this rich heritage. Steve Tamayo was one of four children raised by loving parents Fortunato and Beulah Tamayo. As a migrant worker, Fortunato grew up working the fields from Texas to Montana. Notwithstanding this lack of schooling, he was successful in obtaining a job and taking care of his family. Steve describes his mother as a kind and compassionate woman despite her difficult childhood as a survivor of the American Indian boarding school tragedy. Steve’s parents encouraged their children to have a strong work ethic, to focus on getting an education, and to pursue the opportunities they were not afforded.

After graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School in May 1984, Steve enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving with the 101st Airborne Division. After returning to Omaha, he sought out Native elders to guide him in his pursuit of cultural knowledge. In 1996, a Residential Teacher was Cleo Frazier from Yankton Sioux Reservation of South Dakota. She resided in the Omaha area and took time to teach Steve and his older brother about indigenous life. This relationship fostered Steve’s quest to learn as much as possible about the history and stories of indigenous people.

This led him to an elder named Howard Wolf, a World War II veteran from the Umo N Ho N Nation of Nebraska. Under elder Wolf’s guidance, Steve learned about the indigenous people, including the traditional materials, construction, and the history surrounding Native American artifacts.

In 2000, he moved to the Rosebud Reservation, where he was able to gain a deeper understanding of the art of the Northern Plains Tribes. Because of the unique skills and specific knowledge gained, Steve was hired as faculty in the Lakota Studies Department of Sinte Gleska, where he taught college students for 12 years.

In 2005, he became the cultural specialist for the Native American Advocacy Program on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. This was a special time for Steve because he was in a place that was the ancestral homeland of his mother’s family.

That same year was an important point in his professional life. A group of conservators from the Smithsonian Institution stumbled upon him while tanning a buffalo hide in his front yard. Six months later, he was headed for Washington, D.C., for a 6-month internship.

Since that time, Steve has been one of the main consultants from the Plains Tribes for the National Museum of the American Indian. He has been part of numerous exhibitions, including an exhibit scheduled to run for 15 years called “As We Grow,” featuring historic games and toys of the Plains Indians.

In 2015, Steve traveled to Washington, D.C., to erect a teepee that he painted on The Mall and presented to President Obama, which is now part of the Smithsonian Collection.

He had the opportunity to paint two buffalo robes for Willie Nelson and Neil Young at the “Harvest the Hope” concert in Neligh, Nebraska, to honor them for their work in preserving our Nebraska land.

Steve’s work has helped to educate our country about our history, our culture, and the struggles of Native American people.

Today, Steve leads study groups on all four reservations in Nebraska and nine reservations in South Dakota. He travels to schools and museums throughout the country to help train students, docents, conservators, and curators on the significance of traditional Native arts, as well as the dangers of cultural appropriation.

Steve is on the Artists in Schools and Communities roster for the Nebraska Arts Council. He serves as the cultural consultant for the Omaha Public Schools’ Native American Centered Education program. He works as the cultural specialist for the Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition. Steve has also been an adjunct instructor for the University of Nebraska Omaha and Metropolitan Community College.

In 2011, he was honored by Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman at the Nebraska Arts Council’s Governor’s Arts Awards when he was presented the Heritage Art Award. His proudest moment was when his mother saw him receive that award.

Steve has also become a source of pride and empowerment for his children. Of his six children, his eldest
daughters, twins Nicole and Rebecca, work in the field of Native American advocacy, health, and education. Steve and his wife, Susan, love their children and their numerous grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Steve for all of his contributions. Because of his work, generations to come will learn about the culture and contributions of the indigenous people.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE JOHN CONYERS, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening, I joined Ambassador Etienne at the French Embassy to acknowledge the DC JazzFest. But I also was there, more importantly, to pay tribute to the Honorable John Conyers.

Yesterday, I took a minute on the floor to indicate that I would be speaking about him over a period of days and weeks because his 53 years as a mentor and beloved colleague deserve that tribute. But yesterday, I was probably at a place John Conyers enjoyed the most. Perhaps he may not know that he was a jazz enthusiast and maybe prepared to become a jazz musician in his early years as a young, young man. His father, a strong union organizer, a UAW worker, thought that might not be the best approach for his young son. I believe the oldest of their four children.

John, being a dutiful son, went on to Wayne State and graduated from its law school as well. That was our gift to the American people.

I want to take a moment to be able to highlight the very underscore, if you will, the underpinnings of the leadership of John Conyers, a progressive before the term could even be defined. I don’t believe that he looked at himself in that way, but I think he looked at himself as one who would break through doors that others could not.

Of course, he was one of the original cofounders of the Congressional Black Caucus. But he rose to be chairman of two committees, the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on the Judiciary, and he became the dean of this House, this entire House of Representatives.

I don’t think that would be what his own desire of tribute would be. I use the terminology that he not only spoke for the voiceless, but he spoke for persons who were actually silenced. That means that they tried to speak, but they were silenced. They were rejected. They were pushed back. They had not the power to be heard.

How amazing it is to have found someone of the African American heritage and tradition who had gone through life in a segregated America to be able to hear voices that were varied and different, who needed to hear that someone cared about them, from Native Americans to Latinos, to the disabled, to those in the LGBTQ community and beyond.

He was a champion of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He got into Congress in 1964. He understood the value of giving people, no matter who you were, the right to vote. I will talk about that more extensively in the days to come, but I remember when we sat and reauthorized that legislation with a Republican President, what a wonderful experience of coming together that required legal legislation that George W. Bush signed enthusiastically, with an overwhelming vote in the House and an overwhelming vote in the Senate.

We even honored many different people from around the Nation, including naming it after the Honorable Barbara Jordan and many others in that timeframe to reinforce the value of voting. John did that in a bipartisan manner, a lesson that we can learn even today. He never went over his принципes, but he stood for the idea of bipartisanship for justice.

He was here for the Legal Services Corporation Act. Can you imagine that if you were poor 50 years ago, you wouldn’t have any representation, not in the criminal system or sense, but in the civil system—being evicted, having problems with healthcare and dealing with your health insurance, or having a matter that required legal representation so that you could have justice. The Legal Services Corporation was something very near and dear to John Conyers.

Let me move quickly to talk about his work dealing with the PATRIOT Act after 9/11. Yes, we wanted to be protecting ourselves against terrorists, but John Conyers was a voice that said that civil liberties of the American people are crucial, and we will not compromise in any bill, in any committee, in the Committee on the Judiciary, on their rights of privacy and their rights of liberty. He believed in that.

Let me also say that in the bankruptcy bill, if people were pushing to get a bill done that would leave out women and children, divorcees, leave out the poor who also needed to have some way of organizing their debt, in fact, he was a champion for that.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a champion for the reparations bill that most people don’t understand, an idea they would understand later, he was our champion. He spoke for those who were silenced.

CELEBRATING LIBERTY DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Virgin Islands celebrates Liberty Day and honors David Hamilton Jackson and his relentless pursuit of free press for the people of the Virgin Islands.

From the 1700s until the 1950s, the Virgin Islands was owned by Denmark, which maintained censorship over the press. D. Hamilton Jackson knew that in order for a people to truly have freedom, the press must also be free.

Traveling to Denmark to advocate on behalf of the workers of the Virgin Islands, he took it upon himself to also fight for the emancipation of the press. His passionate advocacy was fruitful, and upon his return to the territory, he published the first newspaper in the Virgin Islands not controlled by the government.

This act empowered the people of the Virgin Islands and opened the door for generations of Virgin Islanders to allow their voices to be heard in the formal medium of press.

D. Hamilton Jackson challenged the status quo and the prevailing laws of his time to secure a future for the islands he loved.

D. Hamilton Jackson used his newfound right for the free press to create The Herald. As editor, he used that publication to uncover corruption and educate the working class. Frustrated with neglect from the Danish Government, Jackson used The Herald to build support for the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States.

The American flag that flies over the Virgin Islands today is a fruit of the seed that D. Hamilton Jackson sowed on his quest for liberty and greater opportunity for Virgin Islanders.

□ 1030

The Virgin Islands continue to embody the spirit of D. Hamilton Jackson and his work.

Rena Brodhurst has spent her life walking the path of Jackson as a champion of Virgin Islands Free Press as the owner and editor of the St. Croix Avis. Educated on St. Croix and then attending college, she followed her family’s tradition of fighting to defend and preserve the press.

Her father, Mr. Brodhurst, was once convicted of contempt of court after publishing an unsigned letter critical of a court decision and social conditions of his time. However, the right to free press prevailed with the U.S. Third Circuit making clear that the constitutional right to freedom of speech in the press was not one that would be infringed upon in the United States.

Rena, herself, has sued the government to protect the right to publish freely without retribution. A strong woman, mother, and friend, she acts as a true Virgin Islands queen, unbroken and a fierce defender of free press.

Today, a new generation steps up to carry the torch of D. Hamilton Jackson. State of the Territory founder Amaziah George, a Marine Corps veteran, brings Virgin Islands press to the world through his online social media paper.

His passion for making the voice and concerns of millennial Virgin Islanders heard make him a trailblazer of his generation. With his willingness to speak truth, the secret stories that
October 29, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H8547

others are unwilling to discuss, this veteran is really a fighter and a soldier of truth.

These individuals have dedicated themselves to truthfully informing the people of the Virgin Islands about their community and the world outside of our small corner. They carry true legacies of D. Hamilton Jackson.

We must continue this work, as Virgin Islanders still have limited constitutional rights as determined by the Insular Cases of the early 1900s. ThoseSuppressions relegate people living within the territories to a separate and unequal status.

The cases posture that people living in territories are inferior races that cannot understand Anglo-Saxon principles of law. It keeps American citizens living in places like the Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico as disenfranchised from the full American experience.

As a young constituent of mine recently wrote in an essay outlining the importance of free press, “only a free press can ensure the people's access to information and build a well-informed, transparent, and accountable society,” and that “we, the people, owe it to our young person. Free press, we must cherish and protect it as a most American of values and as one of the last fragile pillars of democracy here and around the world.

In the words of D. Hamilton Jackson, I challenge us to walk in his spirit and challenge the status quo for the betterment of our people and our Nation. Let us all embody the motto of his newspaper, The Herald: ‘Liberty, equality, fraternity.'

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day because, after decades of struggle, this House will recognize the Armenian genocide, just in time to be viewed by the last survivors of the first genocide of the 20th century.

Two weeks ago, I came to this floor and I told you it is the time, finally, to recognize the Armenian genocide because it was no longer the time to kowtow to Turkey. Since then, many of us have approached the Speaker and urged her to put this bill on the floor.

But this great day belongs to NANCY PELOSI, our Speaker, who made the decision to bring it to the floor, where we will pass this resolution, H. Res. 296, which I and so many others introduced to this House in April of this year. And, of course, I have cosponsored and been an original cosponsor of every Armenian genocide resolution since 1997.

We always should have recognized the Armenian genocide, but we were told again and again that we wouldn’t do it because we have this great alliance with Turkey.

Earlier this month, Turkish forces shelled to the left and then to the right of an American base. It seemed clear to many that we should go to kill Americans. America withdrew. And this was not some well-planned, careful, deliberate withdrawal. We left because of the Turkish shelling and the Turkish threat.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor the Armenian genocide resolution since 1997. I have approached the Speaker and urged her to bring it to the floor, where we will pass this resolution, H. Res. 296, which I and so many others introduced to this House in April of this year. And, of course, I have cosponsored and been an original cosponsor of every Armenian genocide resolution since 1997.

We always should have recognized the Armenian genocide, but we were
my colleagues to join me in supporting them.

EMERGENCE OF AMERICAN HEROES

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are in interesting times. I think it was Confucius who said to live in interesting times is a great opportunity. It is.

Unfortunately, the rule of law and democracy are at stake. And as they are and as the Intel Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Oversight and Reform Committee have hearings—and later, there will be public hearings—we are seeing American heroes emerge.

Today, an American hero, a lieutenant colonel who earned a Purple Heart, will be testifying. Colonel Vindman listened to the conversation between President Zelensky and President Trump, and he will testify as to what happened. It won’t be a memorandum; it will be what really took place on that call and why it alarmed him so much.

The administration doesn’t want Colonel Vindman to testify, but he is testifying because he is a patriot, because it is his duty, and because he knows what is at stake.

What is at stake is democracy. What is at stake is our Constitution. What is at stake is our Republic.

We have had other people testify, the Ambassador who was removed 2 months early because she refused to go along with what was taking place, and Ms. Fiona Hill. These are heroes. These are patriots.

Unfortunately, on some news networks that are mouthpieces for the administration, they have had their patriotism questioned, and they have been vilified.

This is the beginning of despotism. When heroes who come forth with proud careers of service in the State Department or the military, without a blemish on their record, and without trying to benefit financially from anybody at all, except doing their job for the United States of America, are questioned because they come forth to testify as to information that threatens our Constitution, that shows abuse of power and an effort to not comply with our Constitution and carrying out congressionally-mandated spending to protect a country fighting Russian aggression in their own territory.

These are not people like Manafort, and Flynn, and Carter Page, who wanted and got money from Ukrainians, and Turks, and Russians, and others to benefit themselves from countries that do not have our interests at heart.

So, we live through these interesting times, let us appreciate the heroes that are emerging, giving testimony, and putting their jobs and their future security and their reputations at risk because, unfortunately, rather than being hailed as the heroes that they truly are, they are being vilified; and that is dangerous, and it is concerning to me.

Some of the people that vilify them praise people like Flynn and Manafort, who sold our country out for their own personal advancement and riches.

America, beware, and honor those who stand up for you.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

☐ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called toorder by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Evan Hoffman, Congregation Anshe Sholom, New Rochelle, New York, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, bless the work of the United States House of Representatives. Fortify our legislators’ constitutional commitments and grant them the wisdom to draft laws that best serve the interests of the American people. O Lord, in a time of polarization and rancorous dispute, we beseech Thee to help our elected officials maintain decorum, civility, commonality of purpose, and a sense of shared American destiny.

Heavenly Father, guide our Representatives so that they might serve, in the eyes of the citizenry, as role models of reconciliation and cooperation. We pray that in a future time the prophet’s words might be said in reference to this Congress: “Restore your judges as in days of old, your counselors as at the beginning.”

Bless our Nation with peace and prosperity, our citizens with health and happiness, and our national institutions with strength and stability. May this be Your will, and let us say: amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUDD 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.

WELCOMING RABBI EVAN HOFFMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my dear friend and constituent, Rabbi Evan Hoffman, for giving the opening prayer today.

Rabbi Hoffman has led Congregation Anshe Sholom in New Rochelle, New York, since 2012. He graduated Yeshiva College summa cum laude, where he received ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan’s Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Hoffman was raised in Great Neck, New York, and is an avid New York Mets fan. Rabbi Hoffman and his wife, Sari, are the proud parents of two wonderful children, Elyahu and Elana.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for the wonderful prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOUSE APPROVAL OF VETERAN TREATMENT COURT COORDINATION ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House approval of the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act legislation led by Chairman CHARLIE CRIST, of which I am a proud cosponsor, directing grants, training, and assistance for communities to establish and operate veteran treatment courts.

In 2008, Buffalo City Court Judge Robert Russell established the very first veteran treatment court in the Nation. Today, there are over 400 such courts. These specialized courts provide veterans, many battling substance abuse or post-traumatic stress disorder, with a tactical path to avoid jail and take command of their future.

At their side are fellow veterans, also known as battle buddies, who serve as volunteer mentors, as well as judges and professional staff, who can connect these warriors with VA benefits. Support for veteran treatment courts allows the Nation to give veterans what they have given us: freedom and peace.
PRESIDENT TRUMP RECEIVES BIPARTISAN JUSTICE AWARD

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

MR. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to President Donald Trump for receiving the Bipartisan Justice Award for his historic success on criminal justice reform at Columbia’s Benedict College.

This is another example of President Trump’s “promises made, promises kept,” accomplishing what former administrations have failed to achieve, also proving the importance of doing what is right and focusing on issues truly affecting the American people.

It is always exciting for South Carolinians when President Trump visits. My wife, Roxanne, and I were grateful to welcome President Trump at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport at Springdale with Governor Henry McMaster and First Lady Peggy McMaster; Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette and her husband, David; and Senator Tim Scott. The President was warmly welcomed.

I am grateful to Benedict College President Roslyn Clark Artis for her dedicated service.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

FUND THE NEXT GENERATION OF SKILLED WORKERS

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in Rhode Island and across the country, the manufacturing industry employs Americans in high-paying, high-skilled jobs while driving innovation and bolstering our national defense.

Unfortunately, manufacturers in my home State have informed me that they can’t find enough qualified candidates to fill job openings, and their current workforce is aging. This is something that is facing manufacturers, I know, across the country.

To address this challenge, I have been a strong advocate for career and technical education, and yesterday, I introduced the Retain Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence Act.

The bill, which is a companion to my good friend Senator Sheldon Whitehouse’s bill in the Senate, will help manufacturers train new workers by providing funds to retain retiring employees long enough to train their replacements.

Our Nation’s manufacturers are a cornerstone of our economy, and I am proud to introduce this bill during Manufacturing Month to build the next generation of skilled workers.

RECOGNIZING MENINAK CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the Meninak Club of Jacksonville, Florida, which is celebrating 100 years of service and camaraderie within our northeast Florida community.

Meninak members are often leaders of business, military, and civic organizations who join together to make a positive impact on others. For a century, they have made a difference in the lives of many through their annual charity project and numerous scholarships for students, including $25,000 in Youth Leadership Grants each year.

Since 1933, Meninak has also sponsored the Ocean Marathon Swim, a 3.5-mile swim competition for members of the American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corps at Jacksonville Beach.

Their many charitable works include building affordable homes for those in need, working with the Salvation Army during Christmas time, and mentoring local disadvantaged folks in Jacksonville.

I congratulate the Meninak Club for 100 years of “lending help where none is available.”

MAKING HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a critical piece of legislation that my colleagues and I in the Committee on Education and Labor are currently marking up next door, the College Affordability Act.

For too many students across our Nation, the dream of pursuing higher education remains out of reach. Rising tuition costs and financially debilitating loans prevent young people from realizing their full potential, and that is simply unacceptable.

That is why we are working to provide relief for students through the College Affordability Act. This reauthorization of the Higher Education Act restores Federal investments in public colleges, increases the value of grant opportunities, and makes student loans easier to pay off.

Nothing should stand in the way of the success of our children’s educational opportunities, especially not the fear of crippling long-term debt.

Mr. Speaker, I am on my way back to the committee room to continue our work to make higher education accessible and affordable for all students.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARAH DAVIS, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK’S FIRST FEMALE CHIEF RANGER

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lexington, North Carolina, native Sarah Davis for recently becoming Yellowstone National Park’s first female chief ranger. This is a huge milestone, and our Davidson County community could not be more proud of her.

Over the past two decades, Sarah has held various leadership roles, including at North Carolina’s own Guilford Courthouse National Military Parks and also Blue Ridge Parkways. Sarah is well suited for this position as she becomes the 18th chief ranger in more than 100 years of Yellowstone National Park.

When asked to describe her leadership qualities, the superintendent said: “She is an outstanding leader, with a track record of high performance, strategic thinking, and collaboration.”

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Sarah Davis of Lexington, North Carolina, on her new position at Yellowstone National Park. We wish her the best of luck.

SUPPORT ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 296 that commemorates the Armenian genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

More than 100 years ago, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were massacred by the Ottoman Empire. There is no argument that this undeniable crime against humanity occurred. It is not an opinion or an interpretation of events. It is fact.

Yet, despite the overwhelming consensus of historians and scholars, there are those who would deny the awful truth that this was a genocide. To those, I would say if you do not recognize the darkest pages of history, you will never fully learn the lessons they hold.

Today, I stand with my constituents from across my district, but particularly from Watertown, Massachusetts, home to a thriving Armenian diaspora community, to urge this House to pass H. Res. 296 and recognize this crime against humanity for what it was, a genocide.

RECOGNIZE OCTOBER AS GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, October is German-American Heritage Month in Pennsylvania. From the restaurants and breweries to the festivals and the sports, Pennsylvania’s German-American community has enriched our state with its culture and traditions. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our German-American community and to honor their legacy.

This month, we also recognize the contributions of German-Americans to our state’s economy, history, and culture. Their contributions have been significant, and we should take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate their many achievements.

Finally, I encourage all Americans to take this month to learn more about German-American history and culture. This will help us appreciate the many ways in which German-Americans have contributed to our nation and our state.

October 29, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H8549
Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as German-American Heritage Month. I am proud to co-chair the Congressional German-American Caucus with my good friend and colleague Congressman BILL KEATING. The mission of the caucus focuses on highlighting German contributions to our country.

This past summer, Congressman KEATING and I introduced H. Res. 446, a bipartisan resolution recognizing the importance of the alliance between the United States and Germany and to underscore our shared commitment to democracy. The resolution reaffirms our support of the Wunderbar Together initiative, which brings together more than 250 partners nationwide for more than 1,000 different events to celebrate German American contributions to culture, science, arts, business, and more.

Today, there are more than 50 million Americans of German descent living in the United States. Our relationship is one of common values, shared historical experience.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join Congressman KEATING and I in supporting H. Res. 446 and celebrating our longstanding relationship with Germany as friends and allies.

☐ 1215

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 823, COLORADO OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ECONOMY ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1373, GRAND CANYON CENTENNIAL PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2811, CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT OF 2019; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 11, 2019, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 656 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 656
Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 823) to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas and of the Colorado National Monument, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as read the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against the amendment are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to be adopted by a simple majority vote and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1373) to protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon National Park of Arizona, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as read the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources may be offered in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the amendment are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2811) to provide for the withdrawal and protection of certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII.

SEC. 4. On any legislative day during the period from November 1, 2019, through November 11, 2019—
(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and
(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 5. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 4 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 6. Each day during the period addressed by section 4 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar or legislative day for purposes of clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII.

SEC. 7. Each day during the period addressed by section 4 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XV.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO), pending which I yield myself such time as I
may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise their comments.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee met last night and reported House Resolution 656, providing for consideration of H.R. 823, the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economic Act; H.R. 1373, the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act; and H.R. 2181, the Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act, each under a structured rule.

The rule provides each bill with 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule makes in order 13 amendments total: 10 Republican amendments and 3 Democratic amendments. The rule also provides each bill with a motion to recommit.

Finally, the rule provides recess instructions from November 1 through November 11.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bills in this rule: H.R. 823, H.R. 1373, and H.R. 2181. These important bills recognize the need to protect unique and irreplaceable American landscapes—public lands that belong to all of us, not to the highest bidder and not to any individual Representative or party.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said: "Of all the questions which can come before this Nation . . . there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

And that is what these three bills attempt to represent, the culmination of years locally driven efforts. These bills protect some of our most iconic lands and resources.

H.R. 823 is the result of collaborative efforts among a diverse set of local stakeholders with a shared interest in providing long-term protections for public lands in Colorado. The bill builds on earlier proposals to protect roughly 400,000 acres of public lands for the benefit of the people of Colorado and all Americans.

H.R. 2181 would withdraw lands within a longstanding, 10-mile buffer zone around the Chaco Culture National Historical Park. This withdrawal would protect an ancestral site for the Puebloan and Tribal communities. It would prevent damage to previously undiscovered cultural resources. Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the hub of trade and culture for thousands of ancestral Puebloans from 1850 to 1250 A.D.

Lastly, H.R. 1373 would permanently prohibit new mining claims on approximately 1 million acres of public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park, the crown jewel of our National Park System—of course, not counting Everglades National Park or Biscayne National Park in south Florida.

In southern Florida, we are all too familiar with what can happen if we fail to protect our most vulnerable and most unique lands and waters. Whether the Everglades, Big Cypress, and the Miami River or the Grand Canyon, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, and public lands in Colorado, we have a deep obligation to conserve and restore these lands. And science tells us, as the climate crisis intensifies, these efforts have never been more urgent.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly support these historic steps forward. Let us pass these bills.

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SHALALA for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, energy and mining are critical drivers of the American economy and quality of life. These industries create thousands of well-paying jobs. The United States cannot reach or sustain our potential without developing our natural resources. But, today, we are debating three bills that put American energy, American quality of life, and American national security at risk. It seems just yesterday that I was here at this very same podium speaking much of these same words. In fact, it was just last month. At that time, I spoke out against bills banning offshore drilling. Now this majority wants to pass sweeping bans on even more domestic natural resources. This time they want to ban American energy from Colorado, New Mexico, and my home State of Arizona. As I said last month, they want to ban it all; and American families, including Arizona families, will pay the price.

H.R. 823 withdraws areas in Colorado from mineral development. This bill particularly impacts its Third Congressional District, represented by Congresswoman Scott Tipton. Sixty-five percent of the lands affected by this bill are in his district, yet, this bill does not have his support, nor the support of any of the Republican members of the Colorado delegation.

Similarly, H.R. 2181 withdraws Federal lands in New Mexico from resource development. It also terminates all non-producing oil and gas leases on those lands.

Finally, H.R. 1373, I believe is a misleadingly-titled land grab that deals with land far outside the Grand Canyon. I believe it is deeply mis-guided.

Arizona currently produces $6.6 billion in nonfuel minerals, which makes it the second largest State in the production of minerals in the United States. Yet, this bill would permanently lock up about 1 million acres of public lands in Arizona, hampering the economic potential of our State.

The area impacted by this bill also contains the largest tract of uranium deposits in the country. Restricting access to these deposits puts our national security at risk because we have to rely on foreign countries to provide us uranium.

It is also important to note that much of the lands affected by this bill are in Arizona’s Fourth Congressional District, represented by my good friend, Congressman Gosar. Yet, Mr. Gosar has expressed very clear opposition to this bill.

These three bills ignore the economic benefits of domestic energy production. Energy development brings high-paying jobs, facilitates manufacturing and investment, and provides government revenues. Energy development in the United States also makes energy more affordable for everyone.

The average savings paid in the natural gas and oil development fields is $113,000 a year; and the energy industry supports 300,000 jobs.

Domestic oil production has allowed Americans to spend 26 percent less in fuel, resulting in nearly $1,000 in savings per family in 2017 alone. To my constituents, that is a lot of money.

I believe in an all-of-the-above energy approach. In my home State of Arizona, this is a reality and a necessity. We have to rely on multiple and diverse energy sources to ensure affordable and reliable energy.

I support nuclear, hydroelectric, coal, sun, wind, and other alternative energy sources; and I also support domestic oil and natural gas production.

An all-of-the-above approach, like that in Arizona, would benefit American families and their quality of life.

In contrast, the bans that the Democrats propose would harm the U.S. economy, threaten our national security, and increase energy prices and rates on consumers.

I urge opposition to the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to make in order a resolution to prevent any moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands unless authorized by Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the Record the text of my amendment, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?
Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the bills be- st in the“keep it in the ground” playbook.

While this widely-used practice is often vilified by extreme environmentalists and proponents of the Green New Deal, in fact, hydraulic fracturing is heavily regulated by the States and governed by stringent industry standards throughout the country.

American households and businesses have benefited significantly from the shale gas revolution. After the intro- duction of hydraulic fracturing techni- ques, U.S. gas bills fell by $31 billion collectively over the period from 2007-2013. All the while, natural gas production using fracking is driving emissions re- ductions, resulting in the lowest emission levels in a generation. In fact, methane emissions have decreased 15 percent while natural gas production increased over 50 percent.

Thanks to hydraulic fracturing, the U.S. is leading the way in emissions re- ductions through innovation in the en- ergy sector. In 2017, U.S. carbon emis- sions reached their lowest level since 1992, and per capita emissions reached the lowest level since 1950.

Also, banning domestic oil and gas production will return the U.S. to a time when we relied on foreign coun- tries for oil and gas. Remember the 1970s? We do not want to put our coun- try in a national security risk.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the bills be- fore us today are harmful to American jobs, American quality of life, and American security. The message under- lying these bills is the false notion that domestic energy production is harmful. I cannot disagree more. Domestic en- ergy production creates hundreds of thousands of well-paying jobs, lowers electricity bills, and prevents us from being dependent on foreign actors.

Utilizing America’s natural resources is a commonsense step for America’s energy future. America must be able to utilize its natural resources for our own energy and national security. We should encourage an expansion of domestic energy production, but, in- stead, my Democrat colleagues in the majority seek to limit them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge “no” on the previous question, “no” on the underlying measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my distinguished colleague and friend from Arizona, these bills recognize that some places, lands that belong to Colo- radans, to Arizonans, to the ancestral Pueblo peoples, belong to all Ameri- cans, and they are just too precious to exploit.

I would like to close, once again, by quoting our conservation President, Teddy Roosevelt. “We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the Nation is worthy of this good fortune.”

Mr. Speaker, today we are doing our part.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on the rule and the previous question.

The material previously referred to by Mrs. LESKO is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 656

At the end of the resolution, add the follow- ing:

SEC. 8. That immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall resolve into the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 659) affirming that States should maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands and that the President should not declare a moratorium on hydraulic frac- turing on Federal lands (including the Outer Continental Shelf), State lands, private lands, or lands held in trust for an Indian Tribe unless such moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress. The first reading of the resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the resolution are waived. General debate shall be confined to the resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and con- trolled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Re- sources. After general debate the resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the resolution are waived. When the committee rises and reports the resolution back to the House with a rec- ommendation that the resolution be adopted, the previous question shall be consid- ered as ordered on the resolution and amendments thereto to adoption without interven- ing motion. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the resolution, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XV, Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the resolution.

SEC. 9. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 659.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the res- olution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the yeas and nays were ordered.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the resolution, as fol- lows:

H. Res. 655

Resolved, That upon adoption of this reso- lution it shall be in order without interven- tion of any point of order in the House the next legislative day, and that in the House the resolution (H. Res. 296) affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be con- sidered as ordered on the resolution and pre-amble to adoption without intervening mo- tion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gen- tleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gen- tleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 655, providing for consideration of H. Res. 296 under a closed rule.

The resolution also provides 1 hour of general debate controlled by the Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, this rule is about U.S. leadership, standing for human rights, and whether we are going to turn a blind eye to atrocities, even if they took place 100 years ago.

H. Res. 296 is a resolution formally recognizing and memorializing the Ar- menian genocide. And let me say, it is about time. 1.5 million Armenians died at the hands of the Turkish Empire in the emerging Nation of Turkey over a century ago. Tens of thousands of Ar- menians were violently expelled from their ancestral homelands.

These truths are important. Acknowledging them is important. Yet, the United States has only tinkered around the edges of recognizing this re- ality. Some of our Nation’s closest al- lies already have—31 nations, in fact— countries like Canada, Italy, France, Sweden, Denmark, even Russia have recognized this genocide.

Mr. Speaker, here is a map of those nations, and you can tell that the

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 296, AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES RECORD ON THE ARmenian GENOCIDE

Mr. MCGEVERN. Mr. Speaker, by di- rection of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 655 and ask for its immediate consideration.
Instead of standing up for the people who have fought alongside U.S. troops in Syria, President Trump gave Turkey the green light to try and wipe the Kurds off the map. The President even complimented President Erdogan, calling him a friend, a tough man, a hell of a leader.

Just last week, 9 days after the President first announced sanctions against Turkey, he unilaterally lifted all the sanctions against Turkey—9 days. Are you kidding me? Never in my life did I think I would see the day when a President of the United States would pave the way for a nation to systematically slaughter our allies, remove sanctions from a country engaging in ethnic cleansing without holding anyone to account, or put U.S. troops stationed abroad in harm’s way all while giving Russia not only a PR victory but control over territory that just days before had been safe, secure, and free from the control of ISIS terrorists and Assad’s murderous regime.

Standing up for human rights is not a Democratic or Republican issue; it is an American issue. Even in an age of heightened partisanship, this Congress must still be speaking with one voice against genocide and crimes against humanity, no matter when they took place. I urge all of my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying resolution so we can show the world that we stand foursquare for human rights.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MCGOVERN for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself to the gentleman for 3 minutes.

I have learned so much from this community. And to those who insist that now is not the time for us to recognize the Armenian genocide; I have to ask in return, when will it be the right time? When the very last survivor of the genocide has passed away?

Those who want the world to forget, those who want to deny genocide, they believe that history will be erased with the last survivor. It will not.

Mr. Speaker, I must be honest. As many political leaders have proclaimed “never again” over the years, the Armenian American community has been left to wonder when “never again” would finally become “enough is enough.”

With this resolution, the United States will join the ranks of the many nations, parliaments, and institutions that have fully recognized and commemorated the Armenian genocide. We will speak out clearly in favor of human rights. Finally, we will say loud and clear that enough is enough.

Mr. Speaker, as we acknowledge this genocide from 100 years ago, I am glad this House is separately considering H.R. 4695 on suspension this week. This bill recognizes the blood that is being spilled today in Syria because of Turkey’s ruthless aggression, hundreds of civilians have been killed. Thousands more have been displaced.

Erdogan’s government has targeted the Kurds—one of our strongest and most reliable allies in the fight against ISIS. What is going on there can only be described as ethnic cleansing.

Instead of referring to mass atrocities and other euphemisms; but nothing in recent history has been more explicit than calling it what it actually was, a genocide.

Mr. Speaker, we need to speak the truth. Forty-nine of our 50 States have formally recognized the Armenian genocide, but the Federal Government has not.

This is a dark stain on our human rights record. The United States should stand foursquare for human rights. Anything short of that sends exactly the wrong message to abusers around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a congressional district in central Massachusetts. It is home to the oldest Armenian community in America. The first Armenian orthodox church in America was built in Worcester, Massachusetts, my hometown. People still worship in it today.

When Armenia was first elected in 1996, we had rows and pews filled with survivors of the Armenian genocide sitting at the front of the church during our annual April remembrance of the Armenian genocide. Sadly, almost 2 years ago, the last of our survivors, Rose, passed away.

I have learned so much from this community. And to those who insist that now is not the time for us to recognize the Armenian genocide; I have to ask in return, when will it be the right time? When the very last survivor of the genocide has passed away?

Those who want the world to forget, those who want to deny genocide, they believe that history will be erased with the last survivor. It will not.

Mr. Speaker, I must be honest. As many political leaders have proclaimed “never again” over the years, the Armenian American community has been left to wonder when “never again” would finally become “enough is enough.”

With this resolution, the United States will join the ranks of the many nations, parliaments, and institutions that have fully recognized and commemorated the Armenian genocide. We will speak out clearly in favor of human rights. Finally, we will say loud and clear that enough is enough.

Mr. Speaker, as we acknowledge this genocide from 100 years ago, I am glad this House is separately considering H.R. 4695 on suspension this week. This bill recognizes the blood that is being spilled today in Syria because of Turkey’s ruthless aggression, hundreds of civilians have been killed. Thousands more have been displaced.

Erdogan’s government has targeted the Kurds—one of our strongest and most reliable allies in the fight against ISIS. What is going on there can only be described as ethnic cleansing.

Instead of standing up for the people who have fought alongside U.S. troops in Syria, President Trump gave Turkey the green light to try and wipe the Kurds off the map. The President even complimented President Erdogan, calling him a friend, a tough man, a hell of a leader.

Just last week, 9 days after the President first announced sanctions against Turkey, he unilaterally lifted all the sanctions against Turkey—9 days. Are you kidding me? Never in my life did I think I would see the day when a President of the United States would pave the way for a nation to systematically slaughter our allies, remove sanctions from a country engaging in ethnic cleansing without holding anyone to account, or put U.S. troops stationed abroad in harm’s way all while giving Russia not only a PR victory but control over territory that just days before had been safe, secure, and free from the control of ISIS terrorists and Assad’s murderous regime.

Standing up for human rights is not a Democratic or Republican issue; it is an American issue. Even in an age of heightened partisanship, this Congress must still be speaking with one voice against genocide and crimes against humanity, no matter when they took place. I urge all of my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying resolution so we can show the world that we stand foursquare for human rights.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MCGOVERN for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself to the gentleman for 3 minutes.

I have learned so much from this community. And to those who insist that now is not the time for us to recognize the Armenian genocide; I have to ask in return, when will it be the right time? When the very last survivor of the genocide has passed away?

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Erdogan’s government has targeted the Kurds—one of our strongest and most reliable allies in the fight against ISIS. What is going on there can only be described as ethnic cleansing.
Another area where Congress could be spending our valuable time is discussing solutions for the cost of prescriptions and pharmaceuticals. There is bipartisan consensus that we could cap out-of-pocket drug costs for our seniors in Medicare part D. This is a policy that rank and file should draft together. In fact, we had a bipartisan Committee on Energy and Commerce and Committee on Ways and Means request for information on the topic of restructuring part D last May.

If we work together in a thoughtful, bipartisan, bicameral manner on restructuring the part D benefit, the President would sign that legislation. He has even said that is a top priority. And our constituents would see lower out-of-pocket drug costs.

But what do we get? We get H.R. 3, Speaker Pelosi’s partisan drug pricing bill, which sidelines achievable drug pricing policies that were in the works prior to the release of H.R. 3.

Additionally, last week marked the 1-year anniversary of President Trump’s signing the SUPPORT Act into law. This legislation provides realistic solutions that span the breadth of the opiate crisis, from prevention and treatment to education and enforcement. This legislation will improve treatment for those with substance use disorders, fight deadly fentanyl, bolster the efforts of our agents at the international mail facilities, and provide vital reforms and innovative alternatives for the treatment of pain.

In a time when our country seems so divided, Congress was able to put political differences aside and put patients first to find solutions to address this crisis.

As it stands now, the SUPPORT Act is another tool in the toolbox for communities and Federal agencies to successfully combat the opioid epidemic. We could be having discussions on how to build on this success and ensure timely and effective implementation of the SUPPORT Act so we could continue to help those affected by the more than 130 American overdose deaths each and every day. Instead, we are spending our time considering a nonurgent, nonbinding resolution. American consumers are concerned about their online privacy. The passage of California’s Consumer Privacy Act has led to a patchwork of State privacy laws that do not reflect the reality that the internet doesn’t know State lines.

We need one national standard, perhaps consider Federal preemption, and promote a cross-border data flow as American businesses seek to do business at homes and abroad. You could even argue that e-commerce is the reason that the Founders drafted the Commerce Clause in the first place.

Again, Republicans stand ready to work with Democrats, but we have not been invited to engage in any substantive discussions.

Congress also could pass and, in fact, must pass the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement on trade, the USMCA. This was negotiated to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement. This agreement is possibly the most impactful policy that Congress could pass this year. The administration has negotiated with Canada and Mexico over the past 2 years to produce the best trade deal possible. The USMCA increases market access for American exports. It levels the playing field for the American worker and ensures important intellectual property protections into the 21st century.

Millions of jobs and billions of dollars’ worth of trade are waiting on the passage of this bill. If Speaker Pelosi brought the USMCA to the floor today, it would pass before the week was out. Unfortunately, the Democratic majority is slow-walking this USMCA and doing harm to our Nation’s farmers, workers, and small businesses. There is absolutely no reason to continue to delay a vote on this agreement.

In addition, securing the USMCA would give the United States additional authority with the ongoing negotiations with Japan. Providing full appropriations for the Federal Government, addressing the humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border, working to lower prescription drug prices and provide continued support to combat the opioid epidemic, negotiating a strong Federal privacy law, and passing the USMCA are all urgent policy priorities that could receive bipartisan support. And yet, we are stymied on these necessary measures to consider a non-urgent, nonbinding resolution that simply reaffirms what has remained clear United States policy regarding Armenia.

I hope my fellow Democrats on the Rules Committee and in the House of Representatives will soon prioritize legislation that will help the American people, I urge opposition to the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

My colleague from Texas talked about a lot of different subjects in his opening remarks. I have to say that I am a little bit disappointed—well, more than a little bit. I am disappointed and somewhat offended at the implication that this is not an important matter.

Let me remind him that 1.5 million Armenians died at the hands of the Ottoman Empire and the emerging nation of Turkey. Let me remind him of the countless hundreds of thousands of people who had to flee because of that oppression. Let me also remind him that this is not the official policy of this United States Government. If it were, that map that I showed you would have included us as a nation formally recognizing the Armenian genocide.

My friend may not think it is important, but as somebody who cares deeply about human rights, it is important that we respect historical accuracy and that we respect the truth.

I don’t know if the gentleman was in the Rules Committee last night when our colleague from California, ANNA ENSHO, movingly and tearfully talked about her family’s experiences during that time, when she lost ancestors and relatives close to the United States to try to have a better life. But I don’t know how we can just kind of brush this off as not a big deal.

It is a big deal. It is a big deal to Armenian Americans, and it is a big deal to anybody who cares about human rights in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the resolution affirming the United States’ record on the Armenian genocide. This resolution is long overdue on the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians and thousands of Maronites, Chaldeans, Amalekites, Assyrians, and others who were part of the Ottoman Empire.

Mr. Speaker, my great-grandparents left the Ottoman Empire to escape that genocide just ahead, but their relatives were not as lucky. My grandparents were Maronites.

I remember my grandmother’s tears as she spoke of the pain she experienced and the many Maronites and Amalekites who were slaughtered by the Ottoman Empire.

As a child, I remember the tears and the suffering of our Armenian neighbors and the many members of the other communities whose tears I could not erase.

As a child, I could not erase those tears, but for them, I proudly support this resolution.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), who has been a leader on this issue for many years.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, after decades of struggle, this House will recognize the Armenian genocide just in time for it to be seen by the last few survivors of the first genocide of the 20th century.

We should have recognized that genocide again and again long ago, but we didn’t because we were told that we had a great alliance with Turkey.

Earlier this month, Turkish forces shelled near and deliberately bracketed American bases. Americans died in unnecessarily hostile. Greatly.

It has been a great alliance for Turkey. We defended them from communism in the 1940s, defended them from the Soviet Union for decades, and provided them with $23 billion in aid.

It is critical that we counteract Turkey’s genocide denial. The genocide denial is the last act of a genocide—first you obliterate a people, then you seek to obliterate their memory, and
finally you seek to obliterate the memory of the obliteration—and because genocide denial is also the first step in the next genocide.

When Hitler’s cadres wondered if they could get away with the Holocaust, they asked themselves: Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians? We must recognize this genocide to remove the stain on America’s honor because, up until now, we have refused to acknowledge truth and we have been silent about it.

The fact is that many other countries have recognized the genocide, including Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy, Argentina, and Germany. And when France had the courage to pass a genocide recognition resolution, they were threatened with a boycott of all their exports. In fact, what happened was a fourfold increase in French exports to Turkey. The only thing worse than unnecessary human suffering is appeasing a power that will not actually respond.

Today, Germany is a great and prosperous democracy, a great ally of the United States. Where would Germany be if, to this day, they denied the Holocaust?

Turkey will be a great ally of the United States and a prosperous and modern nation only when Turkey recognizes the first genocide of the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman for bringing up this rule and for answering the question why this is so important to do this today.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Armenia, where I went to the Armenian Genocide Memorial Museum, the place where I went to the Armenian Genocide Memorial Museum. I was actually there a few years ago, on the 100th anniversary of the genocide, with our two Armenian Members of Congress, ANNA ESHOO and JACKIE SPEạos; I have to say, it was unfortunate for us. We were proud to be there for the 100th commemoration, but we still were very upset over the fact that the United States had not recognized the Armenian genocide in recent years. And, of course, this has been a goal of the Armenia caucus and the Armenia diaspora for over 30 years that this day, this historic day, would finally occur. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Speaker of the House of Representatives, NANCY PELOSI, who has made this day possible.

This resolution is important. It commemorates the victims of the Armenian genocide. It is an important step in raising awareness and showing the world that we have a commitment to human rights and the dignity of every human life.

The passage of this resolution is an important step in raising awareness and showing the world that we have a commitment to human rights and the dignity of every human life.

In the words of George Santayana: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

We stand today to show that the House of Representatives will not be complicit in covering up past atrocities in the 20th century nor turn our back when ethnic or religious minorities are threatened in the 21st century.

We must urge Turkey to come to terms with its own history and look beyond the thinly veiled facade of denial that covered up one of the most horrific crimes in world history.

We must urge Turkey to join the rest of the world in recognizing the sanctity of human life, even if it is someone who doesn’t look like you, speaks a different language, or attends a different house of worship.

Turkey has a long history of repressing ethnic minorities, including the Kurds, whom they are killing as we speak. And it doesn’t matter whether they are Christians or Muslims; many of the Kurds are their Muslim brethren.

I am also a strong supporter of the bipartisan Turkey sanctions bill that will also be considered this week.

It is unfortunate that it took the abandonment of our allies in northern Syria to get to this point, but I am pleased to see that we are finally pushing back against the bully that is President Erdogan.

We cannot trust the Turkish, Russian, or Syrian Governments to uphold peace and protect innocent lives in the region. We must stand up to authoritarian leaders like Erdogan, Putin, and Assad to defend our regional partners and innocent lives.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for bringing up this rule. I want to thank Chairman SCHIFF, the sponsor of this resolution; Chairman ENGEL; the House leadership; and other members of the congressional caucus for their support of strong American leadership and for their work to finally get this passed.

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

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, Republicans will amend the rule to suspend the ongoing impeachment inquiry until we achieve operational control of our southern border.

As I previously stated, we are experiencing a humanitarian and security crisis on the southern border. In August, Customs and Border Protection apprehended over 64,000 individuals who lacked legal documentation to enter this country. Apprehensions are on track to reach over 1 million individuals attempting to cross into the United States along our southern border this fiscal year.

The House should prioritize securing our southern border and stemming the flow of irregular migration over a politically motivated impeachment inquiry. Until operation of the border control is achieved, the House should suspend the impeachment inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I have to say to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that, again, it is frustrating to hear his comments. I mean, we are talking about a resolution recognizing the Armenian genocide; 1.5 million people
were murdered. I think it is generally a bipartisan resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend not only Chairman Engel and Chairman Smith, who is a Republican, for their testimony before the Rules Committee; I want to thank Congressman Schiff, who chose to be absent from the hearing because of the hour of the Rules Committee. Congresswoman Lesho, came out very strongly in favor of this resolution.

It would be nice if there were a couple of moments here that didn't always have to be politicalized and I think this resolution should be one of those moments.

This is important; this is serious; and we shouldn't bring politics into a resolution dealing with the recognition of a genocide. So I obviously have a different opinion on how people should vote on the previous question.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Sánchez).

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution to recognize the Armenian genocide.

This tragedy is one of the most painful moments in our world's history. We owe it to the more than 2 million victims and their descendents never to forget.

It is heartbreaking that some choose to deny our past rather than to learn from this painful moment in history. It is an insult to millions who died and the millions who risked their lives to escape violence.

Denial is all too easy. It is harder to face the truth, and facing the truth is the right thing to do.

When we rewrite the darkest chapters of our history, we open the door to them happening again. The United States cannot be complicit in that denial.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to send a resounding message to the world that we stand with the Armenian community: We will not forget; we will not obscure.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I would just point out that this Congress has acted on this in the past. H.J. Res. 148 passed in the 94th Congress. A joint resolution to designate April 24, 1975, as a National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man passed the House April 8, 1975.

And then again, H.J. Res. 247 from the 98th Congress, a joint resolution to designate April 24 as a National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man passed the House 10 September 1984.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, it really is frustrating to hear my colleague try and dismiss this. There has not been a resolution calling this a genocide and outlining all the facts before.

Mr. Speaker, I would again urge my colleagues, in a bipartisan way, to support the underlying bill and to reject any attempts to try to politicize this process.

And, again, we do this out of respect for those victims of the genocide, for its survivors, and the Armenian American community, for the Armenian community all over the world, and we do it because the United States of America is supposed to be committed to a very high standard of human rights.

If we stand for anything, we need to stand out loud and four square for human rights.

To not appropriately acknowledge a genocide only paves the way for future thugs, dictators, and authoritarians to commit similar atrocities, believing that somehow the United States, the most powerful country in the world, will just look the other way.

I hope that we have strong, bipartisan support on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Blumenauer).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy, and I appreciate his words.

Mr. Speaker, for years, we have danced around this. It is complex with the Turks, in terms of the relationship that we have tried to deal with. But denying genocide has not helped resolve those issues. It hasn't changed the behavior of the Turks.

Look at what is happening with the Kurds today. Failure to acknowledge this horrific episode is a burden for us all—standing up for human rights, acknowledging the truth, giving a sense of closure and solace to the people who endured this horrific activity, and making sure that we are united in our opposition to those genocidal activities.

Sadly, unless and until the Turks own their history, acknowledge it, they are not going to be able to move past it. This is a chapter that needs a spotlight shown on it.

I appreciate this formal acknowledgment by the House of Representatives. I think it is a first step toward healing, and it is an important step toward preventing tragedies like this in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support it, and I look forward to its passage on the floor of the House.

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

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to point out that the gentleman had said that he did not want to see this issue politicized. I would just simply note that this resolution could have been brought to the floor under suspension of the rules and likely passed with a large bipartisan majority under suspension of the rules.

The difficulty that I have today is that we are spending the time on a rule bill for this bill that would have passed under suspension when we, in fact, have some pretty important things out there hanging over us.

One of those things, of course, is funding the entire Federal Government. Congress can't end up with a government shutdown, and the other is to somehow resolve this question of impeachment that has bogged down this body for months, if not years.

Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out, there are other important, time-sensitive priorities. Once again, we have 11 legislative days remaining before the continuing resolution expires. In place of a nonurgent, nonbinding resolution, we could be finding a way to ensure that our government remains open and that Americans continue to receive the Federal benefits, services, and paychecks on which they depend.

I ask my fellow Democrats to prioritize the needs of the American people, and I urge a “no” vote on the previous question and “no” on the rule.

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

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

The gentleman wonders why we didn't bring this legislation up under suspension of the rules. To be honest with you, I think there was a concern by Democrats and Republicans on the Foreign Affairs Committee that we might not have all the votes that we needed to pass them under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Turkey employs very well-paid lobbyists here in Washington, and they have been working quite diligently trying to defeat this. So I hope we have a vote that is overwhelming, but we don't know.

Secondly, I don't know why the gentleman would object to bringing this up under a rule. It gives more time for Members on both sides of the aisle to be able to speak on this, and a lot of Members do. We had a lot of Democrats on one side who wanted to. We have others who are going to speak when the underlying bill comes up. So I don't quite get it.

Let me say, again, for the RECORD, this is not the official policy of the United States. If it was, President Trump would publicly acknowledge the Armenian genocide.

By the way, I am not picking on President Trump. The same could be said for President Obama. I can go right down the list of Presidents.

The deal is, this is not the official policy. If it was, we wouldn't be here.

It really is somewhat disappointing that the gentleman doesn't quite appreciate how impactful this is and how important it is.

Mr. Speaker, the horrors of human rights abuses can be mind-numbing, whether they occurred 100 years ago, like the Armenian genocide, or are happening today in Syria at the hands of Erdogan's government.

I get it. It is easier to turn away than to see the impact of brutality, the loss
of life, the maiming of civilians, including children, in the devastated communities. It can turn your stomach and break your heart, but we must not lose our capacity for outrage. That 1.5 million Armenians died at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in the emerging nation of Turkey should outrage all of us.

Formally recognizing this genocide is the right thing to do. I wish we took this step long ago, but it is always the right time to do the right thing. I urge my colleagues: Let’s speak with one voice. Let’s join some of our closest allies in recognizing the Armenian genocide. Let’s finally remove this dark stain on the record of the United States of America.

I say this all the time: The core of our being as a nation should be upholding a high standard of human rights. We should always be counted on to speak out when people’s human rights are being denied. We certainly should be counted on to adhere to historical accuracy.

This happened, and it is time that it become the official policy of the United States of America to recognize that it did happen and call it for what it was, and it was a genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the previous question, vote “yes” on the rule, and vote “yes” on the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Mr. BURGESS is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 655

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution, the Committees on the Judiciary, Ways and Means, Financial Services, Oversight and Reform, and Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence shall suspend pursuing matters referred to by the Speaker in her announcement of September 24, 2021, until such time as the United States achieves operational control of the southern border.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on that 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 ordering the previous question on House Resolution 655 will be followed by 5-minute votes on—

Adoption of House Resolution 655, if ordered;

The previous question on House Resolution 656; and

Adoption of House Resolution 656, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 189, not voting 18, as follows:

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The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 191, not voting 18, as follows:

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PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 823, COLORADO OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ECONOMY ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1373, GRAND CANYON CENTENNIAL PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2181, CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT OF 2019; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2019, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2019.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 29, 2019, at 10:58 a.m.: That the Senate passed S. 134.

With best wishes, I am, Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Johnson
Whereas the United States has a proud history of recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide, the killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, in response to the atrocities of the campaign of genocide against Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syrians, Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians;

Whereas the Honorable Henry Morgenthau, United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1916, organized and led protests by officials of many countries against what he described as the empire’s “campaign of race extermination,” and was instrinsic in the formation of the Committee of Inquiry; and

Whereas Secretary of State Robert Lansing that the “Department approves your procedure . . . to stop Armenian persecution”;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson encouraged the formation of the Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, which raised $16,000,000 (over $2,500,000,000 in 2019 dollars) between 1915 and 1920, and the Senate adopted resolutions condemning these massacres;

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “genocide” in 1944, and who was the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, included in his argument in the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide by the early 20th century;

Whereas, as displayed in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Adolph Hitler, on ordering his military commanders to attack Poland without provocation in 1939, dismissed objections by saying “[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”, setting the stage for the Holocaust;


Whereas the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–441) establishes that atrocities pre- vent, and respond to the risk of atrocities by setting the record straight on the atrocities suffered by the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century.

We know what happened in this dark period of history. Between 1915 and 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were murdered. This was a genocide, and it is important that we call this crime what it was. Many American politicians, diplomats, and institutions have rightly recognized these atrocities as a genocide, including America’s Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time, Henry Morgenthau, and later, President Ronald Reagan.

It is time that we set the record straight. Only by shining a light on the darkest parts of our history can we learn to not repeat them. And properly acknowledging what has occurred is a necessary step in achieving some measure of justice for the victims.

H. Res. 296 sticks to the historical facts. This is a good, commonsense measure with broad bipartisan support.

I want to thank Mr. SCHIFF, the resolution’s author, as well as Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, when the term “genocide” was created in 1944 to describe the systematic destruction of an entire people. Its author, Raphael Lemkin, explained the term by saying: “It’s the sort of thing Hitler did to the Jews and the Turks did to the Armenians.”

When history repeats itself, as it has done in Poland in 1939, Adolf Hitler said: “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”

Mr. Speaker, in the year 2000, and again in the year 2015, I chaired two congressional hearings on the Armenian genocide. In 2000, the House was moving to pass a bipartisan resolution by Congressmen Radanovich and Bior, H. Res. 398.

After hearing fact-based, eloquent testimony from Congressmen James Rogan and David Bonior, followed by the State Department, history professors, and then witnesses from both the Armenian and the Turkish side, my subcommittee successfully marked up H. Res. 398 for consideration by the full committee.

Ambassador Marc Grossman, however, testified at the hearing that President Bill Clinton was against the Armenian genocide resolution. That opposition proved to be very significant, and as we were moving with the highest expectations toward passage, President Clinton’s National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger, took the extraordinary step of admonishing Speaker Hastert not to bring it to the floor. And he caved. The resolution never even got a vote.

In 2007, Chairman Tom Lantos, like Chairman Henry Hyde before him, released the resolution committee sponsored by Congressmen SCHIFF and Radanovich; although it never got out of the committee in 2000, but he wanted it to. That was H. Res. 106. That too never made to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, that changes today. The Affirming the United States RECORD on the Armenian Genocide, H. Res. 296, is a sense of Congress resolution that commemorates the Armenian genocide through official recognition and remembrance.


The resolution also points out that the U.S. played a major role in the humanitarian relief efforts and, of course, the Near East Relief agency saved tens of thousands of Armenians and others. As a matter of fact, the historian, Howard Saschar, noted: “I believe that a front has generally kept an entire nation alive,” and that is reflected in the resolution.

Yet, today, the Armenian genocide is the only genocide of the 20th century where survivors, family, and all those who care about this important issue, have been subjected to the ongoing outrage of a massive, well-funded, aggressive campaign of genocide denial, openly sustained and lavishly funded by the State authority, in this case, the government of Turkey.

The Turkish Government undertakes a disgraceful disinformation campaign to confuse the historical
record. It often employs lobbyists in this town to carry that message forward.

Mr. Speaker, my 2015 hearing marked the 100th year since the beginning of the genocide; and I appropriately entitled it A Century of Denial: The Armenian Genocide and the Ongoing Quest For Justice.

As Pope Francis said at his Mass marking the 100th year of genocide: "Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it."

Mr. Speaker, the facts of the genocide were reported throughout the world as they were happening, corroborated immediately afterward by survivors and even some of the perpetrators, and have been amply documented by the historians, and in one particular book that I have read, by Ambassador Morgenthau, who was our U.S. Ambassador contemporaneously, at the time, to the Ottoman Empire.

In 1915, roughly, there were about 2 million Armenians in what was then the Ottoman Empire, now Turkey. They were living in the region that they had inhabited for 2,500 years or more.

By 1923, however, over 90 percent of these Armenians had disappeared. Most of them, an estimated 1.5 million, were slaughtered. Most of them were death-marched into the desert, or shot, and many of the women were raped. The remainder, the remnant, was forced into exile.

U.S. Ambassador Morgenthau wrote: "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact."

The Encyclopedia for the Armenian Genocide states: "During the march, many Armenians were killed indiscriminately by Ottoman forces, which left a trail of corpses along the route of the march. To break the will of the marchers, the killings were performed with swords, resulting in great bloodshed."

And as they continued the march, they were marched into the Syrian desert where they died from starvation.

At the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education exhibit at Brookdale Community College, which my good friend and colleague from New Jersey, Mr. Pallone, knows so well as well, they have many re-membrances of people in our State and elsewhere who were survivors.

Well, one of those survivors put it this way, and I quote her: "Life was a matter of trying to survive. Every morning a cart would come around and take away the sick and the dead to be dumped into a common grave. They had taken my mother because she was a little sickly and crying and weeping were of no avail, especially because I was sick and petrified of being put on the cart."

She was one of the lucky ones who survived.

Let me remind my colleagues that the Genocide Convention of 1950, which the Turkish Government has ratified, makes clear—here is what the Genocide Convention says, and the Armenian Genocide is the only one by the definants of its survivors. It was a campaign of ethnic cleansing committed by the Ottoman Empire during and after the First World War, and it led to the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians alongside other targeted groups.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Smith referenced Ambassador Morgenthau, who was our Ambassador at this period of time. He said this: "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact."

He went on to say: "I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this." Of course, we were, tragically, to see an even greater Holocaust, in terms of numbers of lives lost, just some 30 years later.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the British Ambassador to the United States, in an October 1915 speech, said this: "The massacres are the result of a policy which, as far as can be ascertained, has been entertained for some considerable time—I want to use this language—"considered for some considerable time by the gang of unscrupulous adventurers who are now in possession of the Government of the Turkish Empire. They hesitated to put it in practice until they thought the favorable moment had come, and that moment seems to have arrived about the month of April."

The reason I bring that up is this resolution is not anti the present Turkish Government. The sanctions will stand for that. This is about something that happened historically, that if not recognized may well happen again. When you say, "Never again," you must recognize what the "never again" is.

I have talked to Turkish Ambassadors and others for over a quarter of a century as a Member of the Congress of the United States and said to them this is not about your government; this is about, as the British Ambassador said, a gang of thugs who took over your government over 100 years ago.

I regret that our Turkish friends have not recognized this as our German friends have recognized their genocide and said this was wrong because if they tell their people this is wrong, it is more likely that it will not be repeated.

Mr. Speaker, as the House joins in condemnation of that genocide and memorializes its victims, let us also keep in mind that some of those people are today that are being subjected to ethnic cleansing and forced relocation. From the Rohingya to the Uighurs,
from the people in Darfur to the Kurdisch population being forced from their homes in Syria as we speak, we must declare, loudly and clearly: Never again. Never again. Sadly, “never” is now.

In particular, our Kurdish allies, who fought so courageously to help us defeat ISIS, are being forced to leave their homes by Turkey’s campaign to seize control of northern Syria. Let today’s action in this House be a reminder, Mr. Speaker, to President Erdogan and his government. The United States is watching. The American people will not turn our eyes away. Neither will we turn our eyes away from the millions of others in Syria who have been displaced and the hundreds of thousands who have been killed, who have been bombed, gassed, and brutalized by the Assad regime and its enablers.

That is why it is important to recognize the genocide perpetrated against the Armenian people so that we will recognize other such actions, which because of their race or their color or their ethnicity or some other distinction subject them to mass murder.

Mr. Speaker, we need to let the American people know that we give a clear message to our Armenian brothers and sisters, to our Kurdish brothers and sisters: We see you. We will not abandon you. Never again.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I thank my colleague and good friend, Mr. HOYER, for his comments. We did travel so many times to the Soviet Union, to the Eastern Bloc countries, and to Turkey. We raised issues methodically, persistently. But this issue has always been one of those unresolved, festering sores that if we could get it right—and this House going on record I think is the beginning of that process. So I thank him for his leadership over these years, for his friendship, and, above all, for that very eloquent statement.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the author of this important resolution, the vice chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, and the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 296, which I introduced along with Representative BILIRAKIS to recognize and commemorate the Armenian genocide.

This vote marks the 104th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, the systematic murder of 1.5 million Armenians, and the displacement of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923. Many other religious and ethnic minorities in the Ottoman Empire met similar fates, among them the Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, and others.

More than a century later, it is our solemn responsibility to remember those who were lost, to seek justice and restitution, and to educate Americans and those around the world about the crime of genocide.

The facts of the genocide are horrific and undisputed by historians. They were recorded by American diplomats serving in the Ottoman Empire at the time who bore witness in official cables to the annihilation of the Armenian population in the Ottoman Empire, a crime that at the time had no name.

Though it lacked a name, there was no doubt in the observers of the time that they were witnessing a crime on a mass scale. The U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, would recall later: “I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared with the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.”

It was only decades later that Raphael Lemkin, a Holocaust survivor, coined the term “genocide” to describe the atrocities that have been visited upon the Jews as well as the Armenians.

I have sat with survivors of the genocide, men and women, their numbers dwindling year after year, and heard them recall the destruction of their homes and the loss of all they had known. As children, they were forced from their homes and saw their families beaten, homes burned, and lives destroyed. They fled across continents and oceans to build lives in this Nation, in Armenia, and around the world.

For them and for their descendants, the word “genocide” is sacred because it means that the world has not and will not forget. To deny genocide, on the other hand, is profane. It is, in the words of Elie Wiesel, “a double killing.”

Mr. Speaker, it is always the right time to recognize genocide, but it is particularly so today. For when we see the images of terrified Kurdish families in northern Syria, loading their possessions into cars or carts and fleeing their homes headed to nowhere except from Turkish bombs and marauding militias, how can we truly say the crimes of a century ago are in the past? We cannot. We cannot pick and choose which crimes against humanity we are convenient to speak about. We cannot cloak our support of human rights in euphemisms. We cannot be cowed into silence by a foreign power.

What we can do, what we must do, Mr. Speaker, is state the facts. We can say that the Ottoman Empire committed this grotesque crime against the Armenians, but their campaign of extermination failed, and that, above all, we will never forget and will never again be silenced.

I am grateful for the leadership of Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCCaul, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), and so many Members on both sides of this aisle who voted for recognition for decades. I urge every Member of the House to join today in supporting H. Res. 296.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO), an important leader on these issues for many years.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to pay tribute to the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ENGEL, for helping to bring this to the floor; to every one of you from both sides of the aisle, the Armenian caucus in the House; and to my sister, friend, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, who shares this heritage with me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, H. Res. 296, which affirms the Armenian genocide.

This is a historic day in the House of Representatives, and it is one that I have been waiting for for 27 years.

Between 1915 and 1923, 1.5 million Armenians—and this is a historical fact that many people are not aware of, that there were hundreds of thousands of Assyrians, Greeks, Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians who were systematically slaughtered by the Ottoman Empire.

This is deeply personal for me. I am the only Member of Congress of Armenian Assyrian decent and one of only three of Armenian heritage in the House of Representatives—I think in the entire Congress, Senate and House.

Some of you know that I had members of my own family who were among those that perished, and my parents fled with theirs to America. As my father said: The best idea that was ever born was America.

What all of those who were persecuted have in common was that they were Christians, and that is why they were hunted down and slaughtered.

This resolution not only honors my ancestors, but all of those who perished in the first genocide of the 20th century.

The United States has been missing in action on the honor roll of over two dozen countries, 14 of which are NATO allies, and 49 States in our country that have taken no action on the Armenian genocide. Today, we can end over 100 years of silence by passing this resolution.
Mr. Speaker, there is also a historic parallel as we are considering this resolution, and that is that Turkey is pursuing the ethnic cleansing of Kurds in Syria, as we meet today.

As Pope Francis declared when he visited Armenia in 2016: “Memories should not be watered down or forgotten; memory is a source of peace and of the future.”

So today we remember and we say to all those who perished: We remember. We love you.

Mr. Speaker, we set an example for the young people of our country that the moral authority of the United States is well and alive as we pass this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank ANNA ESHOO for her leadership throughout many decades on this issue. It was I who brought it up on the floor today. I want to thank her for that. Of course she had to work within the leadership to get it done, but I thank her for recommending that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind Members that, in 2018, ANNA ESHOO and I wrote Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act. It was signed by President Trump into law.

That provided two things: humanitarian relief for the tens of thousands of Christians and Yazidis fleeing from ISIS; and also provided accountability piece to collect for, hopefully, utilization in future court cases against the perpetrators of these heinous crimes.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for that work that we did together and, again, for her leadership on this issue.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the acting chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on the committee and for this resolution, and also ANNA ESHOO and Chairwoman SCHIFF and so many of my friends and colleagues for their long efforts to pass it on both sides of the aisle.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues and the Representative of a large and vibrant Armenian community in New York City, I strongly support H. Res. 296, affirming the United States’ record on the Armenian genocide—1915, 1.5 million Armenians were murdered by the Ottoman Empire in the first genocide of the 20th century. Ever since, Armenian communities from across the world, including those in my district, have been forced to fight for recognition and justice for Turkey’s denial in so many ways, from the illegal invasion of Cyprus by Turkey to the vicious attacks on Kurds within and without the borders of Turkey.

With our vote today, the United States takes a long long overdue step to stop Turkey from hiding the truth of its actions. The Armenian genocide must be acknowledged by all, and in doing so, we can hope to prevent the next genocide.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER), co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues.

Mrs. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL, Chairman McCaul, and Mr. SMITH, and have a deep sense of gratitude to Congressman SCHIFF for introducing H. Res. 296; and to my sister, my Armenian sister, Congresswoman Eshoo, for helping us plot this strategy to get this bill to the floor.

April 24, 1915, is a day that lives in infamy in the hearts and minds of millions of Armenians worldwide. It is a day that I grew up understanding from my Armenian mother to be one of the darkest in history. It is the day that the Ottoman Government embarked on a systematic slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians, two-thirds of the Armenian population. This genocide is recognized in countries around the world, including Canada, France, and Germany. It is recognized in 49 States in our Union as the first genocide of the 20th century, yet the House of Representatives hasn’t recognized both that the genocide occurred and that the Ottoman Empire perpetrated it.

Elei Weise once called denying genocide—and in particular, the Armenian genocide—is a double killing, because it not only exterminates a group of people, it murders the memory of that crime. Congress must ensure that memory is not destroyed and those lives are honored.

As a child, I listened to my mom speak of the atrocity with pain and fear. She is gone now, but her pain lives on in me to this very day.

By righting this terrible wrong, one that has fostered for far too long, we are alleviating that pain and sending a message that history can’t be rewritten. We are stating, in no uncertain terms, that America will no longer abandon Armenians with feeble excuses made for a so-called ally. We are affirming that truth is truth.

Thousands of documents totaling 37,000 pages in the National Archives support the truth: Armenians were exterminated by Ottoman forces and Turkish sympathizers.

In 1918, former President Theodore Roosevelt sent a letter saying:

Because the Armenian massacre was the greatest crime of the war, failure to act against Turkey is to condone it and means that all talk of guaranteeing future peace is nonsense.

Usually, these words serve as a general warning, but today they apply to specific ongoing atrocities. We must not stand silent as Turkey attempts the ethnic cleansing of the Kurds in Syria.

Even Russia’s President Putin had said the Armenian people went through one of the greatest tragedies in human history.”

Iran’s former Vice President stated: “The Ottoman Turkey Government perpetrated genocide in 1915.”

If our rivals can talk about this, if they can take a stand, certainly we can.

Armenian genocide, we must say it here: It happened, and it will never happen again. We must make that commitment.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the co-sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 100 years since the atrocities committed against innocent Armenians and other ethnic and religious minorities at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman Empire genocidal campaign from 1915 to 1923 killed 1.5 million Armenians, men and women and children, as well as Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, and Syriacs throughout a series of executions and death marches.

Finally, today, we are entering into the United States RECORD the Armenian genocide and the historical fact.

Today, we end a century of international silence. There will not be another period of indifference or international ignorance to the lives lost to systematic murder.

Genocides, wherever and whenever they occur, cannot be ignored, whether they took place in the 20th century by the Ottomans or mid-20th century by the Third Reich and in Darfur.

Genocide must be acknowledged for what it is: a scourge on the human race.

Genocide is genocide, Mr. Speaker, even if our so-called strategic allies perpetrated it.

President Ronald Reagan explicitly referred to the Ottoman Empire’s actions as the genocide of the Armenians in a 1981 Holocaust Remembrance Day speech.

Over 30 nations have formally recognized the genocide, including France, Germany, and even Russia. Today, Mr. Speaker, the United States is going to acknowledge it as well.

I found Pope Francis’ words and explicit use of the term “genocide” to be another wake-up call for the world. We must acknowledge the atrocities of the past so that we might, hopefully, prevent them in the future.

Our darkest moments as a human race have come during times when those who knew better stood silently, making excuses for passivity and allowing injustice and persecution to reign.

Turkey’s current actions in northern Syria against our Kurdish allies is extremely concerning, and we cannot
stand by and let egregious human rights violations happen. Turkey’s offensive into Syria is unacceptable behavior from a U.S. ally and so-called secular democracy, as well as a NATO member. It is simply deplorable, Mr. Speaker.

We also need to make sure that other genocidal campaigns being waged in the Middle East are also properly recognized. ISIS is a perpetrator of genocide. Christians and other minorities are being killed solely because of their religion, and no modern society should sit silently in the face of such barbaric brutality.

Again, I am thankful that we are finally recognizing these atrocities and these acts against the Armenian people. Like the earliest Christians, the Armenians proved themselves not only survivors of persecution, but also masters of their destinies.

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation on our Foreign Affairs Committee. He has been a leader on this issue for years.

Mr. SHERMAN. American honor demands that we end our complicity in genocide denial.

Four arguments are made against this resolution:

The first is that it is not true. No one can even make that argument anymore. 1.5 million Armenians and countless Syrians, Greeks, and others massacred by the Ottoman Government.

Second, they argue that Turkey is such a great ally that we should turn a blind eye to what happened last century. Earlier this month, Turkish forces shelled both to the left and to the right of Syrian military, and American soldiers fled in unseemly haste. What a great ally Turkey is.

Then we were told: Well, the Foreign Affairs Committee hasn’t had hearings. We have had countless hearings on this for decades, including, also, a 4-hour markup where we passed it through the committee, and the only argument made on the other side was Turkey was such a great ally. Well, last week, we had hearings in our committee that demonstrate that Turkey is not such a great ally of the United States.

And, finally, we were told—and this is insulting, I think—during the rules debate by someone arguing against the rule that it is not worth our time: 1.5 million dead.

The fact is that genocide denial is the last act of a genocide. First, you obliterate a people; then you obliterate their memory; and, finally, you seek to obliterate the memory of the obliteration.

And, also, genocide denial is the first step in the next genocide. When Hitler’s cadres wondered whether they could get away with the Holocaust, he was able to reassure them by saying: Who today speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?

Denying genocide in the past will lead to more genocides in the future. Today, Turkey is a great and prosperous democracy because it has come to grips with its own past. Where would Germany be today if it denied the Holocaust?

Turkey will become a prosperous and modern nation when it recognizes the first genocide of the 20th century. The best thing we could do for Turkey is to acknowledge the genocide and urge them to do likewise.

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

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), the chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and this is, indeed, a bipartisan speech.

The fact is that many other countries have recognized this genocide, and they have done so under tremendous Turkish pressure. For example, France was told that they would not be able to export to Turkey if they recognized the genocide. They did, and, in the subsequent 6 years, French exports to Turkey quadrupled.

This genocide has been recognized by Argentina, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and the list goes on and on. It is time for America to also recognize the truth.

I look forward to the day, which is not true today, when scholars and individuals in Turkey can talk about the genocide and can come to grips with their own past instead of being threatened with incarceration for even mentioning this debate, because Turkey will not have the rule of law and democracy if they do not recognize the first genocide of the 20th century on Turkish soil.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 296, a resolution introduced by my friend Mr. SCHIFF to recognize the horror of the genocide perpetrated against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire between 1915, 1918, and 1923, killing 1.5 million martyrs.

There is no question that the Ottoman Empire carried out a systemic campaign of persecution, forced removal, starvation, and murder against Armenians, along with other Christian minorities living under Ottoman rule.

This campaign was documented in real time by American diplomats and has been acknowledged in various forms by previous administrations and Congresses.

In order to prevent future genocides and mass atrocities, it is vital that we never forget those that have already occurred. For too long, we have allowed foreign interests to lobby the United States in favor of turning the other way and not wholly recognizing the truth of the Armenian genocide. That ends today.

Today, America is the only island, we have a very proud Armenian community that has demonstrated extraordinary resilience. They deserve for Congress to acknowledge the history of their people and the truth of the Armenian genocide. That will happen today.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), another wonderful member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H. Res. 296, which would establish dormant United States recognition and the ongoing remembrance of the Armenian genocide.

I thank Chairman ENGEL, Ranking Member McCaul, Mr. SMITH, and all of the supporters of this resolution.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation for decades of work on this issue for years.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 296, which would establish United States recognition and the ongoing remembrance of the Armenian genocide. That will happen today.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues to join me and more than 110 cosponsors in supporting this long overdue passage by the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the horrors of the Armenian genocide can never, ever, ever be undone. Yet, by acknowledging the suffering of the victims through official recognition of the Armenian genocide, we can ensure that at least future generations will never forget.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. Ted Lieu), another respected member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL and
Congressman Smith for their leadership.

The United States of America should never be afraid to tell the truth, and yet, for too long, we did not recognize the Armenian genocide. That ends today. The House of Representatives is going to formally recognize the Armenian genocide.

Over a century ago, the Ottoman Empire began a plan to systematically exterminate Armenians from their land. 1.5 million Armenians were killed across the Armenian countryside. No amount of revisionist history or lying can change those facts.

Today is a historic today. Today, we tell the truth and we honor the Armenian genocide.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to balance my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and, more importantly, I thank him for bringing this very important legislation to the floor today.

I thank Mr. SMITH for his ongoing commitment to justice in the world in terms of respecting the dignity and worth of people and not ignoring atrocities when they happen, now and a long time ago. It is a pleasure to work with him always.

Mr. Speaker, we have tried this bill out of committee more than one time, and now it has come to the floor. It is an honor to speak on it, and it is a great day for the Congress that we have that privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in solemn remembrance of one of the great atrocities of the 20th century, the systematic murder of more than 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children by the Ottoman Empire.

Too often, tragically, the truth of this staggering crime has been denied. Today, let us clearly state the facts on the floor of this House to be etched forever into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: The barbarism committed against the Armenian people was a genocide.

As international observers wrote at the time, it was a “campaign of race extermination,” one that we as Members of Congress and as free-loving people have a moral obligation to never forget.

If we ignore history, then we are destined to witness the mistakes of the past be repeated. The recent attacks by the Turkish military against the Kurds in Syria and as free-loving people we have a moral obligation to never forget.

If we ignore history, then we are destined to witness the mistakes of the past be repeated. The recent attacks by the Turkish military against the Kurds in Syria and as free-loving people we have a moral obligation to never forget.

For that, I thank Chairman SCHIFF, Chairman ENGEL, Congresswoman ESHOO, Armenian Caucus Co-chairs PALLONE and SPEICHER, and all who have worked relentlessly on this critical resolution, which states that Democrats and Republicans join to:

“Commemorate the Armenian genocide through official recognition and remember.

“Reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the United States Government with denial of the Armenian genocide or any other genocide;

“Encourage education and public understanding of the facts of the Armenian genocide, including the United States role in the humanitarian relief effort, and the relevance of the Armenian genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity.”

To honor the memory of those lost and the suffering of those who survived, we firmly and unequivocally denounce all attempts to devalue or minimize these heinous crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I have long voted for this resolution, which is a statement to America’s commitment to human rights and to the truth.

We are blessed in our country with a large Armenian American population, some serving—Congresswoman SPEICHER, Congresswoman PELOSI, and others—in this House. Every year, we come together to observe the sadness of the genocide, but today, Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity. And may we have the strength and courage to always denounce hate, violence, and bigotry; to right the wrongs of history and to build a future of hope, peace, and freedom for all mankind. That is who we are as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and others for giving us the opportunity to state our values.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to balance my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the co-chair of the congressional Armenian caucus, who has, for many, many years, been at the forefront of championing this very important resolution.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ENGEL for all of his work on this, and I, of course, thank all of the members of the Armenian caucus. One of the reasons that we founded the Armenian caucus was the recognition of the Armenian genocide. The truth.

But I also have to mention that I think, as everyone knows, without Speaker PELOSI, this would never have come to the floor today. It is, ultimately, her decision to bring it to the floor. And I want to thank her immensely.

Official recognition of the Armenian genocide is a powerful reminder that we will not turn away when we know full well that crimes against humanity have been perpetrated. We stand here today to pay tribute to the victims of this horrific chapter of history, to the perseverance of those who survived, and to the Americans of Armenian descent who continue to strengthen our country.

It is our duty to honor that history with an honest, factual statement recognizing the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians as the 20th century’s first genocide. This resolution cannot undo the horrors that the victims endured or the pain that their descendents carry with them, but we have an obligation to speak candidly about the past. That is directly tied to our moral responsibilities of the present.

The United States must never accept crimes against humanity, and we must do everything in our power to prevent and stop atrocities unfolding in real time.

What is currently taking place in Syria—the killing of the Kurds at the hands of the Turkish President Erdogan—is unacceptable, and it is far past time for the Turkish Government to accept its responsibility for the systematic extermination in the past century and to commit to protect the dignity of every human life in this century.

I encourage my colleagues to join in supporting this long overdue recognition of the Armenian genocide. Mr. Speaker, your vote is not only for the Armenians but to prevent genocide in the future.

Let us note that the Ottoman Turks did not succeed. The Armenians are still here in the United States, in the Republic of Armenia, in Artsakh, and the American people and their Representatives will continue to be with you.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlemen from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

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

Today the House of Representatives will affirm, finally, that we recognize the horrors of the Armenian genocide and are committed to remembering the victims of this crime against humanity.

Our moral standing in the world requires us to acknowledge the truth of the Armenian genocide. For too long, we have acquiesced in Turkey’s policy of genocide denial, unwilling to risk the ire of our so-called ally.

However, Turkey’s actions against the Kurds in Syria and Iraq forced many of us to long known: Erdogan’s Turkey does not stand for human rights or religious freedom, but instead spreads authoritarianism wherever it goes. Erdogan’s disdain for democracy and contempt for an ally was on display 2 years ago when his bodyguards attacked peaceful demonstrators right here in our Nation’s Capital.

I am pleased that later today the House will vote to impose sanctions on Turkey for its actions in America. This resolution and that bill are tied together. They are both powerful statements that we respect fundamental
human rights and that we desire to stand on the right side of history.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, today, finally, a congressional resolution that will pay tribute to the Armenian, the Syrian, the Greek, the Chaldean, and other lives lost, and the determination of those who survive.

To many Americans of Armenian descent who continue to strengthen our country today, we honor those contributions with an honest statement of history, recognizing the massacre of 1.5 Armenians as the 20th century's first genocide.

In the spirit of honoring these victims, I am proud to cosponsor H. Res. 296, an official recognition of the Armenian genocide.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and acknowledge Mr. SCHIFF and my dear friend, ANNA ESHTO, and all of those, Mr. PALLONE, and of all the Members who have stood in support of H. Res. 296, a resolution "Affirming the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide," and I thank Mr. SCHIFF, the gentleman from California and the Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Mr. ENGEL, the Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for their collaboration and hard work in bringing this important legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the United States record on the Armenian Genocide goes back more than a century, in fact, to July 16, 1915, when Henry Morgenthau, United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913 to 1916, organized and led protests by officials of many countries against what he described as the empire's "campaign of race extermination," and was instructed on July 16, 1915, by United States Secretary of State Robert Lansing that the "department approves your procedure . . . to stop Armenian persecution."

I urge all Members to join me in voting for this critically important resolution, H. Res. 296. Their judgments are supported by 53 Nobel laureates who signed an open letter to the Government of Turkey on April 9, 2007. Mr. Speaker, the historical record is clear, and the Armenian Genocide is a tragic fact. It must be acknowledged and recognized by all, and it must be condemned.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I know that the refusal of modern-day Turkey to acknowledge one of the worst examples of man's inhumanity in the 20th Century haunts survivors of the Armenian Genocide, as well as their families and friends.

As a Member of Congress, I believe this is not only an affront to the memory of the victims and their descendants, but it does a disservice to the United States as it seeks to stand up for the victims of violence today.

The issue of recognizing the Armenian genocide and helping the Armenian people is neither a partisan nor geopolitical issue. Rather, it is a question of giving the Armenian people the justice they deserve.

In doing so, we affirm the dignity of human-kind everywhere.

It has been said that "all it takes for evil to triumph, is for good men to do nothing." This is one of the reasons I am proud to have joined with so many of my colleagues in cosponsoring the resolution affirming the occurrence of the Armenian genocide throughout my career in Congress and I will continue to do for as long as it takes.

In recognizing the Armenian Genocide, we do not seek to persecute any person or state; we seek to build a path that will lead to reconciliation between Armenians and Turks.

In doing so, we will remain true to our nation's highest aspirations for justice and peace.

It was President Lincoln who called upon the "better angels of our nature" when he said in his Second Inaugural Address that all Americans should "do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian Genocide has been officially recognized by 42 states, which have gone on public record rejecting any claim or assertion that denies the occurrence of one of history's worst crimes against humanity.

I believe it is time for us to join these nations in that endeavor by passing H. Res. 296, the "Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of the millions of silenced voices and interrupted lives of those Armenians who perished between 1915 and 1923 in the genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for this critically important resolution, H. Res. 296.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there are no further speakers other than the chairman, and I would like to close.

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

As I mentioned earlier, the Encyclopedia of the Armenian Genocide states:

During the march many Armenians were killed or subjected to indiscriminate acts of the Ottoman forces, which left a trail of corpses along the route of the march. To break the will of the marchers, they used swords, resulting in great bloodshed. Marchers who survived these attacks faced starvation, as no provisions whatsoever were made. Many elderly
Mr. Speaker, despite having ratified the Genocide Convention back in 1950, the Turkish government has waged an amazingly deceitful campaign of denial and has done so over the course of decades using a variety of means to bully, intimidate, and punish Turkish citizens who acknowledge the genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire beginning in 1915.

Ankara also seeks to intimidate nations. Many nations have refused to be intimidated and to be bullied: Poland, Germany, the Holy See, Italy, Russia, France, Holland, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Paraguay, Bolivia, Brazil, Austria, Bulgaria, the European Parliament, Luxembourg, Sweden, Chile, Latvia, Lithuania, and Venezuela, Slovakia, Canada, Uruguay, Switzerland, Lebanon, Belgium, Greece, and Cyprus all have come out strongly and acknowledged the Armenian genocide. We need to do the same today.

Over the years, several U.S. Presidents have acknowledged the cruelty and the carnage. But it was Ronald Reagan who called it an Armenian genocide. He said, “Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians, which followed it—and like too many other persecutions of too many other peoples—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten.”

To be sure, Presidents Carter, Bush, Clinton, and Bush, said strong words. They had strong words to describe it. President Bush called it the “forced exile and the annihilation” of 1.5 million Armenians. President Obama had promised to recognize the genocide but didn’t. A Los Angeles Times story on April 21, 2015, says it all: “Armenians hopes crushed as Obama decides not to use the word ‘genocide’.

It does matter, Mr. Speaker. Genocide is a very precise term. It has real meaning in international law because of the Genocide Convention, and all Presidents. He said, “Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians, which followed it—and like too many other persecutions of too many other people—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten.”

Let me remind my colleagues, because it is referenced again in the resolution, that back in 1984 we passed a joint resolution to designate April 24, 1985—it didn’t pass in the Senate, but it did pass here—and it said in part that April 24, 1985, is designated as “National Day of Remembrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man” and authorized the President to observe the day of remembrance for all the victims of genocide, and especially for the 1.5 million people of Armenian ancestry who were the victims of genocide perpetrated in Turkey between 1915 and 1923.

So I say to my colleagues who are watching, we have gone on record before. Let’s not be intimidated by Turkey, Erdogan, and others.

I would like to say a special thanks to the tenacious leaders of the Armenian National Committee of America, the Armenian Assembly and the Armenian diaspora for persistently encouraging Congress to step up and pass this kind of resolution. After four decades of denial, obfuscations by Turkey, it is time to affirm and reiterate the truth of the Armenian genocide and honor the victims, the survivors, and their families.

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

MR. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is an important measure for Congress to set the record straight and to call out the atrocities suffered by the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century as a genocide.

I, again, want to thank the author of this resolution, Mr. SCHIFF, along with the many champions for the Armenian people in the House. I want to congratulate the Armenian American community which has worked for so many years to try to get this resolution to the House floor and get it passed. We are really making history today, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Mr. SMITH, and all the others who spoke. I think this is very important, and I think we will be sending a very very strong message all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this important resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with House Resolution 296, which will be debated on the House floor today.

This counterproductive resolution does not tell the full story of the region during World War I and reopens a wound between Greeks, Turks, Armenians, Kurds, and other ethnic groups in the region. Favoring the preferred storyline of one of these groups without considering information provided by other ethnic groups in the region would serve as a failure on our part to do our due diligence and hear out all sides on this matter of historic significance. No hearings have been held on this resolution and it has come to the floor without being marked up by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Looking into the future, this resolution fails to help improve relations between the states of Turkey and Armenia. Last year, the Armenian government annulled normalization protocols that were signed by the two governments on October 10, 2009. It is in our best national security interests that we work with both governments to facilitate the revival of the normalization of relations between the two nations in order to keep the region at peace without any escalation towards conflict.

Lastly, the passage of this resolution will only drive our NATO ally, Turkey, into the open arms of Vladimir Putin and Russia. Already, the Turkish government has purchased and taken delivery of the Russian developed S-400 anti-aircraft weapons system. The integration of this military system undermines the commitments made by all NATO allies to move away from Russian military systems. Passing this resolution for the sole purpose of poking Turkey in the eye will only serve as another reason for Turkey to pursue a separation from NATO.

Mr. Speaker, I will be voting present on House Resolution 296 as I believe we have failed to do our due diligence in investigating this matter and exploring the possible unintended consequences that may arise upon passage of this resolution.

Ms. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 296, Affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide. I am honored to have supported the resolution my entire tenure in Congress. Although it should not have taken this long, today is a historic day in that the House is finally acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, recognizing the heroic efforts of many in our government to help the Armenian people, and honoring the victims.

H. Res. 296 acknowledges the systematic and deliberate annihilation of millions of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire. The resolution recognizes the courage and leadership shown at the time by our ambassador Henry Morgen-then, our government, and the American people who provided relief and shelter to the victims of the genocide. Thousands of victims, mostly women and children, were saved by the people of our nation who gave humanitarian assistance to the refugees.

Mr. Speaker, our partners in NATO, who have played an integral role in the legislation. Our colleagues Congressman ADAM SCHIFF and Congressman FRANK Pallone have been tireless advocates for this resolution and should be applauded for their work in getting us here today. The Armenian-American community has stayed committed to recognizing the incredible injustice their ancestors suffered even while many challenged their bearing witness to the truth.

Armenian-Americans have sought formal recognition of this genocide, not only to help heal their own community, but to ensure genocide never happens again. The Armenian-American community is always first to speak out regarding modern-day crimes against humanity, such as in Rwanda and Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, like Armenian-Americans I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, not only to recognize the genocides of the past, but to prevent genocide in the future. The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 655, the previous question is ordered on the resolution and the preamble.

The question is on the adoption of the resolution.

The question was taken: and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

MR. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.
The years and nays were ordered.

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

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 the motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays were ordered, or to object to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

PROTECT AGAINST CONFLICT BY TURKEY ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4695) to impose sanctions with respect to Turkey, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act” or the “PACT Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States and Turkey have been treaty allies since 1952, when Turkey became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

(2) being a NATO member means that Turkey’s treaty obligations are not only a matter of collective defense and the preservation of peace and security;

(3) Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on October 9, 2019, is an unacceptable and unnecessary escalation of tensions with the potential to cause a severe humanitarian crisis and undo the collective gains made in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) by the United States and the 81 countries and organizations of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, including NATO and the European Union (EU);

(4) Turkey should immediately cease attacks against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), Kurdish and Arab civilians, and other religious and ethnic minority communities in northern Syria and recall its forces back to Turkey;

(5) targeted sanctions against Turkey are an appropriate response in order for Turkey to be held accountable for its military invasion of northern Syria;

(6) Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria is the latest example of the weakening and problematic United States-Turkey bilateral relationship and undermines the security of the United States and its NATO allies, including that of Turkey;

(7) the SDF have been critical partners to the United States and allied counter-ISIS and broad coalition efforts in Syria, and the United States should continue this partnership with the SDF;

(8) the United States Government should utilize diplomatic and military tools to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS;

(9) the United States should stand by critical allies and partners;

(10) Russian and Iranian political and military influence in Syria present a threat to United States national security interests; and

(11) the United States Government, in concert with the international community, should hold accountable members of the Syrian regime and be a strong advocate of the United States and its NATO allies for atrocities against the Syrian people.

SEC. 3. SANCTIONS AGAINST SENIOR TURKISH OFFICIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to the following foreign persons in connection with Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on October 9, 2019:

(1) the Minister of National Defense of Turkey;

(2) the Chief of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces;

(3) the Commander of the 2nd Army of the Turkish Armed Forces;

(4) the Minister of Treasury and Finance of Turkey;

(b) ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS.—

(1) LIST.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the President a list of the following foreign persons in connection with Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on October 9, 2019:

(A) Senior Turkish defense officials involved in the decision to invade northern Syria;

(B) Senior Turkish military officials leading attacks against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), Kurdish and Arab civilians, or other religious or ethnic minority communities in northern Syria;

(C) Turkish officials significantly facilitating Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria;

(D) Any Turkish official or member of the Turkish Armed Forces who is responsible for, or has directly or indirectly engaged, or has attempted to engage, in any of the following relating to Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria:

(i) A violation of the law of armed conflict;

(ii) A gross violation of internationally recognized human rights;

(2) UPDATES.—

(A) The list required under paragraph (1) shall be updated every 60 days, until the sanctions under this section are terminated in accordance with section 7.

(B) The list required under paragraph (1) shall be updated every 60 days, until the sanctions under this section are terminated in accordance with section 7.

(c) E XCEPTION.—The sanctions imposed pursuant to this section shall not apply to transfers for ultimate end use by the United States military or for use in military operations approved by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON ARMS TRANSFERS TO TURKISH MILITARY UNITS IN SYRIA.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No United States defense articles, defense services, or technology under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) may be transferred to the Government of Turkey if such articles, services, or technology could be used in operations by the Turkish Armed Forces in northern Syria.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to transfers for ultimate end use by the United States military or for use in military operations approved by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(c) USE OF EMERGENCY WAIVER.—

The authority of the President to waive statutory congressional review periods under the Arms Export Control Act in cases in which an emergency exists shall not apply to the transfers of defense articles, defense services, or technology to the Government of Turkey.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN PERSONS PROVIDING ARMS TO TURKISH ARMED FORCES IN SYRIA.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the President a list of the following foreign persons in connection with Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on October 9, 2019:

(A) Persons in connection with Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria;

(B) Persons in connection with Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria;

(2) UPDATES.—The list required under paragraph (1) shall be updated every 60 days, until the sanctions under this section are terminated in accordance with section 7.

(b) SANCTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN PERSONS PROVIDING ARMS TO TURKISH ARMED FORCES IN SYRIA.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the date of submission of the list required under paragraph (1), the President shall impose the sanctions described in section 14 with respect to any foreign persons identified on the list and related updates required under subsection (a).

(c) EXCEPTION.—The sanctions imposed pursuant to this section shall not apply to transfers for ultimate end use by the United States military or for use in military operations approved by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(d) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive, on a case-by-case basis and for a period of not more than 90 days, the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person if the President determines that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to do so and, not later than 15 days before issuing such a waiver, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a justification relating to such determination.

(2) RENEWAL OF WAIVER.—The President may, on a case-by-case basis, renew a waiver issued under paragraph (1) for an additional period of not more than 90 days if, not later than 15 days before such a waiver expires, the President determines it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to do so and, not later than 15 days before issuing such a waiver, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a justification relating to such determination.
under paragraph (1) for an additional period of not more than 90 days if, not later than 15 days before such a waiver expires, the President determines it is important to the national security interests of the United States to do so and submits to the appropriate congressional committees a justification relating to such determination.

SEC. 6. TARGETED FOREIGN FINANCIAL SANCTIONS.

(a) HALK BANKASI OR HALKBANK.—Not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall impose the sanctions described in section 14(1) with respect to Halk Bankası or Halkbank or any successor entity thereof.

(b) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Treasury, and Director of National Intelligence, determines that any foreign financial institution, in addition to the foreign financial institutions specified in subsection (a), has knowingly facilitated significant transactions for the Turkish Armed Forces or defense industry relating to Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on October 9, 2019, the President shall, not later than 15 days before such a determination is made, impose the sanctions described in section 14(1) with respect to any such foreign financial institution.

(2) WAIVER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive, on a case-by-case basis and for a period of not more than 90 days, the imposition of the sanctions described in section 14(1) with respect to any such foreign financial institution.

(B) WAIVER.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose five or more of the sanctions described in section 14(1) with respect to any such foreign financial institution.

(3) Turkey is not hindering counter-terrorism operations against ISIS.

SEC. 7. TERMINATION AUTHORITY.

(a) SECTIONS 3, 4, AND 5.—The authority to impose sanctions under sections 3 and 5 (and the sanctions imposed pursuant to such sections) and the prohibitions under section 4 shall terminate if the President determines and submits to the appropriate congressional committees a finding that—

(1) Turkey has halted attacks against the Syrian Democratic Forces, Kurdish and Arab civilians, and other religious and ethnic minority communities in northern Syria; and

(bb) is not hindering counter-terrorism operations against ISIS; and

(ii) not later than 15 days before issuing such a waiver, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a justification relating to such determination.

(b) E LEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY.—The President may, on a case-by-case basis, renew a waiver under subparagraph (A) for an additional period of not more than 90 days if, not later than 15 days before such a waiver expires, the President determines it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to do so and submits to the appropriate congressional committees a justification relating to such determination.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on October 9, 2019.

(d) REPORT ON NET WORTH OF TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the net worth of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his family members (including spouse, children, parents, and siblings) in accordance with international law and standards.


(a) DETERMINATION.—For the purposes of section 231 of the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525), Turkey’s acquisition of the Russian S-400 air and missile defense system beginning July 12, 2019, shall be considered to be a significant transaction described in such section.

(b) SANCTIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose any or all of the sanctions under this section (including any sanctions described in section 231 of the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525) with respect to Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria).

SEC. 9. PLANS AND REPORTS TO ADDRESS NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS CAUSED BY TURKEY’S MILITARY INVASION OF NORTHERN SYRIA.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria which (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of the impact of Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on the ability of ISIS to reconstitute a physical caliphate; (B) A description of the impact of the invasion on the Russian Federation’s military and political influence in Syria; (C) A description of the impact of the invasion on Iran’s ability to increase its military and political influence in Syria; and

(b) E LEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY.—The President shall, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report summarizing a strategy required under subsection (a) which shall include the following elements:

(1) A description of the impact of Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on the ability of ISIS to reconstitute a physical caliphate.

(2) ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY.—The report, and any update thereto, required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of the impact of Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on the ability of ISIS to reconstitute a physical caliphate.

(B) A description of the impact of the invasion on the Russian Federation’s military and political influence in Syria.

(C) A description of the impact of the invasion on Iran’s ability to increase its military and political influence in Syria.

(E) An outline of planned joint actions by the Department of State and the Department of Defense, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal agencies, regarding all stabilization funds or activities for Syria, and an explanation of how such funds and activities can contribute to stabilization in the current environment and receive enhanced support from States troop presence in northern Syria.

(F) The creation and use by the Government of Turkey of “safe zones” to justify the forcible displacement of Syrian refugees from Turkey to Syrian territory, to justify the forced displacement of Syrian refugees from Turkey to Syrian territory, or to prevent Syrian refugees from seeking international protections.

(G) The role of the Government of Turkey and Turkish-backed forces in facilitating humanitarian actors, including international governmental organizations (INGOs), for cross-border work from Turkey and in ensuring efficient, open supply lines for humanitarian assistance and personnel through border crossing points on the Turkey-Syria and Iraq-Syria borders, and facilitating safe passage of humanitarian assistance to Syrians inside Syria based on need.

The actions of the Government of Turkey and Turkish-backed forces in taking effective measures to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, including health facilities, water pumping stations, and restricting civilian infrastructure, including health facilities, water pumping stations, and restricting

SEC. 12. STRATEGY TO PREVENT THE RESURGENCE OF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS) AND ITS AFFILIATES.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to prevent the resurgence of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria, and its affiliates.

(b) ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of the impact of Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on the ability of ISIS to reconstitute a physical caliphate.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The President shall, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on October 9, 2019, including the impact of the withdrawal of United States forces from Istanbul, and the Secretary of State shall provide an updated report or briefing to the appropriate congressional committees as circumstances warrant.

(c) REQUIREMENT.—The report, and any update thereto, required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of the impact of Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria on the ability of ISIS to reconstitute a physical caliphate.

(B) A description of the impact of the invasion on the Russian Federation’s military and political influence in Syria.

(C) A description of the impact of the invasion on Iran’s ability to increase its military and political influence in Syria.

(E) An outline of planned joint actions by the Department of State and the Department of Defense, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal agencies, regarding all stabilization funds or activities for Syria, and an explanation of how such funds and activities can contribute to stabilization in the current environment and receive enhanced support from States troop presence in northern Syria.

(F) The creation and use by the Government of Turkey of “safe zones” to justify the forcible displacement of Syrian refugees from Turkey to Syrian territory, to justify the forced displacement of Syrian refugees from Turkey to Syrian territory, or to prevent Syrian refugees from seeking international protections.

(G) The role of the Government of Turkey and Turkish-backed forces in facilitating humanitarian actors, including international governmental organizations (INGOs), for cross-border work from Turkey and in ensuring efficient, open supply lines for humanitarian assistance and personnel through border crossing points on the Turkey-Syria and Iraq-Syria borders, and facilitating safe passage of humanitarian assistance to Syrians inside Syria based on need.

The actions of the Government of Turkey and Turkish-backed forces in taking effective measures to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, including health facilities, water pumping stations, and restricting
ISIS and other terrorist organizations, including non-lethal assistance, training, and organizational capacity for the Syrian Democratic Forces, the Iraqi Security Forces, the Kurdish Peshmergas, and others to counter gains by ISIS and its affiliates.

(3) A description of United States Government efforts to support, develop, and expand local governance and security structures in areas of Syria previously liberated from ISIS control.

(4) An estimate of the number of current, active ISIS members in Iraq and Syria, including the assessment of those being held in detention camps or prisons.

(5) A comprehensive plan to address ISIS detainees being held in Syria and Iraq, including the following elements:

(A) The designation of an existing official within the Department of State to serve as a senior-level coordinator to coordinate, in conjunction with the lead and other relevant agencies, all matters for the United States Government relating to the long-term disposition of ISIS foreign terrorist fighters detainees, including all matters in connection with—

(i) repatriation, transfer, prosecution, and intelligence-gathering;

(ii) coordinating a whole-of-government approach with other countries and international organizations, including INTERPOL, to enhance chain of custody and locations of ISIS foreign terrorist fighter detainees;

(iii) coordinating technical and evidentiary assistance to countries to aid in the successful prosecution of ISIS foreign terrorist fighter detainees; and

(iv) all multilateral and international engagements led by the Department of State and other agencies that are related to the current and future handling, detention, and prosecution of ISIS foreign terrorist fighter detainees.

(B) A description, which may be in classified form, of ISIS senior leadership and infrastructure and efforts to target leadership figures.

(C) A comprehensive description of United States activities utilizing social media and other communication technologies to counter ISIS’s propaganda, influence, and ability to recruit fighters domestically and internationally, including with private technology companies, and how such activities are being coordinated across the United States Government.

(D) A description of the efforts of the United States Government, including economic sanctions and financial measures, including revenues from natural resources extraction, sale of antiquities, kidnapping, extortion, taxation, smuggling, access to cash storage sites, and access to international financial networks, to ISIS and its affiliates, in conjunction with international partners and financial institutions.

(E) A United States Government efforts to support credible war crimes prosecutions against ISIS fighters.

(F) A plan to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

SEC. 12. REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, INCLUDING THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT, AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SYRIA DURING TURKEY’S MILITARY INVASION.

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

(1) Turkish and pro-Turkish forces should end all practices involving arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary executions, and other unlawful treatment; and

(2) all stakeholders in Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria should reveal the fate or the location of all persons who have been subjected to enforced disappearance by such stakeholders.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the causes and consequences of armed conflict and gross violations of international humanitarian law committed by Turkey’s military invasion of northern Syria, including violations of the law of armed conflict and gross violations of international humanitarian law committed in or as a result of the actions of all parties to the conflict.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of civilian harm occurring in the context of Turkey’s military invasion, including—

(i) mass casualty incidents; and

(ii) damage to, and destruction of, civilian infrastructure and services, including—

(I) hospitals and other medical facilities; (II) electrical grids; (III) water systems; and (IV) other critical infrastructure.

(B) A description of the law of armed conflict committed during Turkey’s military invasion by all forces involved in the Turkish-led coalition and all forces fighting on its behalf and by any other combatants in the conflict, including—

(i) alleged violations of the law of armed conflict;

(ii) specific instances of failure by the parties to the conflict to exercise distinction, proportionality, and precaution in the use of force in accordance with the law of armed conflict;

(iii) arbitrary denials of humanitarian access and the resulting impact on the alleviation of human suffering;

(iv) extra-judicial executions and detention-related abuses; and

(v) other acts that may constitute violations of the law of armed conflict.

(C) Recommendations for establishing accountability mechanisms for civilian harm, violations of the law of armed conflict, and gross violations of internationally recognized human rights perpetrated by Turkish and pro-Turkish forces in Syria, including the potential for prosecuting individuals perpetrating, organizing, directing, or ordering such violations.

SEC. 14. SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.

The sanctions described in this section are the following:

(1) Asset blocking.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.)

(2) Aliens inadmissible in the United States.—A person is inadmissible in the United States if—

(A) the alien is an alien who—

(i) has been removed from the United States; or

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

(B) the alien fails to comply with a visa or other entry documentation of a foreign person shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued. A revocation under this subparagraph shall take effect immediately and automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person’s possession.

(C) Exception to comply with United Nations Headquarters Agreement.—Sanctions described in subparagraph (B) of section 10 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) shall not apply to any individual if admitting such individual into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or to otherwise fulfill international obligations of the United States.

SEC. 15. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) In general.—The President may exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 333 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this Act.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The President shall take such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) Penalties.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to any person who violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of any prohibition of this Act, or an order or regulation issued under this Act, to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

SEC. 16. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) In general.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions under this Act shall not apply to any amendment made by this Act to any existing exception, other than that such an exception shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

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

SEC. 17. HUMANITARIAN WAIVER.

The President may waive the application of any provision of this Act (other than section 16) for the purpose of providing humanitarian assistance if the President certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that such a waiver is necessary to address a humanitarian need and consistent with the national security interests of the United States, not later than 15 days before issuing such a waiver, the President submits to such committees a justification relating to such determination.

SEC. 18. UNITED STATES REFUGEE PROGRAM PRIORITIES.

(a) In general.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall designate, as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern—

(1) Syrian Kurds, stateless persons who habitually resided in Syria, and other Syrians, who partnered with, or worked for or directly with, the United States Government in Syria for an aggregate period of not less than 1 year;

(2) Syrian Kurds, stateless persons who habitually resided in Syria, and other Syrians, who were employed in Syria, for an aggregate period of not less than 1 year;

(A) a media or nongovernmental organization based in the United States;

(B) an organization or entity that has received a grant from, or is a recipient of, a cooperative agreement or contract with, the United States Government; or
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United States person'' means—

(a) any organization that—
(i) was continuously physically present in Northeast Syria between 2011 and the date of the enactment of this Act; and
(ii) has participated in or directed an organization described in subparagraph (A) or (B); or
(b) any entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 20. SUNSET.

This Act shall terminate on the date that is three years after the date on which sanctions imposed pursuant to this Act have terminated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4695.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have described the administration’s approach to international affairs as “fly by the seat of your pants” foreign policy, but over time, we have seen a pattern emerge. The President of the United States stokes a crisis and then steps in with some sort of half measure in a failed attempt to look like a great deal is happening.

You can’t be the arsonist and the fireman at the same time. And the situation in Syria right now may be the clearest example of this and the most disastrous.

Around 2 weeks ago, President Trump gave Turkey’s President Erdogan the green light to launch a military invasion of northern Syria, and that is precisely what Turkey did. What followed was a gruesome campaign slaughtering our Syrian Kurdish partners who fought alongside the United States against ISIS. Already nearly 200,000 people, including women, children, and families, have been displaced, driven from their ancestral homes—ethnic cleansing at its worst.

The deal we signed with Erdogan has led directly to this ethnic cleansing in northern Syria’s indigenous Kurdish region. It is really a disgrace. These people fought with us. These people took pride in being loyal and faithful allies. For the United States to turn our backs on them, or to start a chain of events that would hurt them, really is a very dark day in our country’s history.

As the Kurds fight to survive this onslaught, they have been forced to abandon their watch over the prisons holding thousands of ISIS fighters. Over 100 of these terrorists have reportedly escaped. Now, the situation in northeast Syria is a humanitarian and national security crisis.

In a region already rife with conflict, Turkey’s military operation is wreaking even more havoc. And rather than hold Turkey accountable for how they have conducted this bloody campaign, President Trump has given them a free pass. When the head of ISIS was finally killed, President Trump, unfortunately, thanked the Turks, thanked the Turkish Government. That doesn’t sit right with me.

First, the administration arranged a sham cease-fire that gave Erdogan all the cover he could have wanted. Then, Turkey entered into an agreement with Vladimir Putin that ceded America’s influence in the region to Russia. And then, President Trump lifted sanctions on Turkey once the Kurds fled.

President Trump has let Erdogan off scot-free for a heinous assault that is destabilizing the region and threatening international security. President Trump and President Erdogan are responsible for the catastrophe in northeast Syria. They both must be held accountable.

On October 16, the House passed a measure rebuking President Trump for this disastrous policy—passed, I will note, with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Now, the United States needs to make sure that Turkish President Erdogan faces consequences for his behavior. Because President Trump has failed to demonstrate American leadership in this regard, it is now on Congress to step up and impose consequences on Turkey.

The PACT Act, which is this act, underscores the devastating consequences of Turkey’s invasion and President Trump’s decision to step back and let it happen. It empowers targeted smart sanctions to incentivize Erdogan to stop his military offensive, cease violence against Syrian Kurdish communities, and withdraw from Syria.

These sanctions are specifically designed to target the Turkish officials and institutions responsible for the brutal actions in Syria that are clearly hurting the Turkish people. After all, it is Erdogan, not the Turkish people, who is responsible for this horror.

Erdogan is an authoritarian thug. His rule has left a glaring black mark on Turkey’s historic secular, democratic traditions. We need to pressure him while ramping up diplomacy in the hopes of getting Turkey back on the right track as a NATO ally. That is one of the goals of this measure.

The bipartisan legislation also requires the Trump administration to develop concrete strategies for combating ISIS, protecting Syrian Kurdish communities, and ensuring Syrians who partnered with American forces, as well as NGOs and humanitarian organizations, can be safely resettled in the United States.

This is a smart response to address the calamity caused by Turkish forces in Syria. It is up to Congress to act to make it clear where the American Government stands.

I want to thank my friend Ranking Member McCaul for working with me to introduce this legislation, and I
I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 4695 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or a similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on Financial Services conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL, Chairman.

Hon. Richard E. Neal, Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN Neal: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4695, the Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 4695 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

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ELIOT L. ENGEL, Chairman.
Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Jackson Lee).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I again rise with appreciation for the chairman of this committee and the ranking member of this committee and echo the importance of this bipartisan resolution.

I would like us to go down memory lane, for those of us who have had the privilege of being here, including Mr. Engel.

We are reminded of a secular Turkey, a Turkey where all were welcomed. We remember visiting some of the beautiful and wonderful treasures of Turkey, as we met with government officials and heard them reinforce their commitment to democracy, to the idea of freedom of religion, and that is appropriate for a 70-year member of NATO.

We are very grateful for their commitment to NATO. There are many who continue to advocate for Turkey’s presence in NATO so that NATO could be comprehensive and unique. But we find ourselves now in the grips of a single-minded individual who does not see the beauty of diversity and the welcoming of those from many places to Turkey, or the orderly process and the strong role they can play in the Middle East.

Yet, on a midnight call or a latenight call on a Sunday night, speaking to this administration, the Turkish President didn’t consult or maybe offer options. What we have gleaned from the media is that they said: We are coming into Syria.

In the midst of them coming into Syria, they created a humanitarian crisis with fleeing women and children, destroying homes, taking people away from their homeland, and just doing havoc.

There must be order in the world, respect and dignity, and a respect for the sanctity of life.

I am glad to rise in support of this legislation, to target Turkey for sanctions that will not be lifted until Turkey withdraws from northern Syria.

The bill requires concrete strategies from the administration for combating ISIS and protecting Syrian Kurdish communities and an analysis of human rights violations committed by Turkish forces, as well as a refugee program.

It goes with my earlier designation that this is a humanitarian crisis in response to the needs of the people.
This is not an act of war. This is to seek peace. This bill freezes assets and imposes a mandatory visa ban against senior officials of Turkey, including the Minister of National Defense, who apparently would not listen.

Additionally, the PACT Act prohibits all arms transfers that Turkey could use in Syria—bloodshed against the people, not peace.

Finally, the PACT Act imposed targeted sanctions on Halkbank, a Turkish bank with ties to President Erdogan.

We would have wished to be around the diplomatic table to resolve the issues in Syria. We might have been on the verge of doing that. There was a calmness on the border, the northern border. We had a certain number of troops.

Great opportunities remained before Turkey, but unwise and unilateral decisions were made. Part of that was the withdrawing of our Armed Forces from northern Iraq.

But I think it is clear to those of us who do want peace that there was a way of doing it. These sanctions should send a very strong message to Syria that we are, one, recognizing the Kurds.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Crow). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. These sanctions should send a strong message to Syria that, one, we in the United States take seriously the intrusion of Turkey into the Kurdish area.

It should send a strong message to President Erdogan to recognize that he cannot bully his way through in the region.

It should also send a strong message to Iran, Russia and to our ISIS foes that America is serious about peace, but doing it in a manner that provides as safe a pathway for peace as possible.

I would hope and would have wanted the decision that the President made on the phone call never to have occurred. It did occur.

Unfortunately, President Erdogan was a partner in this, and we must make a very strong statement that the United States will not stand for this kind of bullying and that we will ensure that we will find peace, but in the right way.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I support H.R. 4695.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, and as a sponsor of the legislation, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4695, the “Protect Against Conflict By Turkey” or PACT Act, and I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for their bipartisan collaboration and hard work in bringing this important legislation to the floor.

I strongly support the PACT Act because it holds Turkey accountable for its brutal invasion of northern Syria and imposes against it tough, targeted sanctions and highlights the negative consequences of Turkey’s invasion and the President’s acquiescence to this act of aggression.

Under the legislation, most of the sanctions will not take effect until Turkey withdraws from northern Syria and the bill requires concrete strategies from the Administration for combating ISIS, protecting Syrian Kurdish communities, an analysis of human rights violations committed by Turkish forces as well as a refugee program designation for Syrians who partnered with or worked directly for the U.S. in Syria.

Specifically, the PACT Act freezes assets and imposes a mandatory visa ban against senior officials of Turkey, including the Minister of National Defense, the Chief of General Staff of Turkish military, the Commander of Turkish 2nd Army, which has led the Syrian incursion; the Minister of Treasury and Finance, who by the way is Turkey President Erdogan’s son-in-law; and additional senior Turkish defense officials involved in the invasion of Syria and anyone committing human rights abuses.

Additionally, the PACT Act prohibits all arms transfers that Turkey could use in Syria and makes unavailable the use of the emergency exception to purchase Arms Export Control Act (AECA) that the President might otherwise have used to get around congressional holds on arms sales to Turkey.

Finally, the PACT Act imposed targeted sanctions on Halkbank, a Turkish bank with ties to President Erdogan, and additional Turkish banks facilitating the Turkish military’s operations in Syria.

Mr. Speaker, I have devoted my congressional career working to advance initiatives that will bring peace to troubled regions of the globe.

For example, I strongly supported the two-state solution to bring peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

Similarly, I worked with my colleagues and the executive branch to end the genocide and bloodshed in Darfur and for peace, stability, and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

About this time two years ago, I had just returned from important meetings in the Middle East where I was part of an eight-member congressional delegation to the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

Mr. Speaker, the unwise and unilateral decision to withdraw U.S. armed forces from Northern Syria and abandon the Kurds, perhaps our most indispensable ally in the region is a mistake of incalculable damage.

Instead of furthering United States interests, the decision to support President Erdogan of Northern Syria undermines them and emboldens Russia, Iran, Syria, and ISIS, all implacable foes of the United States.

At the same time the decision squanders the progress made to date by the United States, working with the Kurds, to defeat ISIS and destroy its caliphate and props up the bloody Assad regime in Syria and puts at risk thousands of innocent men, women, and children.

Mr. Speaker, the President’s decision weakens the United States and our trusted allies will no longer rely upon the commitment of our country to defend freedom or keep its word, and worst of all, it consigns the Kurds, our devoted and dedicated friends, to certain death and carnage at the hands of the Turkish military under the leadership of autocrat President Recep Erdogan.

I urge the President, as Commander-in-Chief, to restate and resume the tried and true practice of orderly and systematic consultation with national security professionals, specifically the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the intelligence community, our key allies and foreign policy experts.

For nearly 75 years, since the end of World War II, the United States has been a indispensable nation in the world and because of the leadership asserted by the United States, international peace has been preserved and global conflagration avoided.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for this critically important bipartisan legislation, to vote to pass the PACT Act.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations again to Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member McCaul for this very important Turkey sanctions bill.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly 13 years, I have felt like I have been one of the lone voices in the wilderness decrying the actions of Turkey as it systemically denies its citizens basic human rights by invading and occupying an EU country, the Republic of Cyprus; stripping religious minorities of their religious freedom; persecuting journalists and academics for writing about the Armenian genocide; and invading and colonizing countries on a daily basis in the Eastern Mediterranean.

As co-chair of the International Religious Freedom Caucus, I am especially grateful for this PACT Act calling for the administration to outline how it will assist religious and ethnic minorities affected by war crimes perpetrated by Prime Minister Erdogan.

Additionally, in my role as co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, I have called for the administration to halt the delivery of F-35s to Turkey, given its purchase of Russia’s S-400 missile defense system.

I am pleased this bill goes further and imposes 231 sanctions for Turkey’s intransigence.

I urge support of this legislation so that we can send a unified, bipartisan message to Turkey that, if you want to be considered a strategic ally of the United States, a true ally, you have to act like one.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the chairman, the ranking member, and the entire Foreign Affairs Committee for bringing up this very important bill.
Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Hurd).

Mr. Hurd of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding, and I am proud to rise today in support of the bipartisan PACT Act to hold Turkey accountable for its destabilizing and dangerous decision to invade Northern Syria and attack America’s Kurdish allies.

After years of fighting side by side with American forces against ISIS, Syrian Kurds are now under siege and fleeing their homes. According to the United Nations, over 180,000 people have been displaced, including 80,000 children. Many are fleeing to the Kurdish region of Iraq, which already hosts over 200,000 refugees from the Syrian civil war.

Turkey’s reckless actions have created a humanitarian crisis that will strain our partners in the region and provide ISIS with an opportunity to reemerge as a threat to the United States.

The international community must come together to provide assistance to Kurds and refugees in both Syria and Iraq.

The U.S. Special Envoy for Syria also told Congress last week that there have been several incidents of potential war crimes committed by Turkey or its proxies, including the use of white phosphorus, which can be used as a chemical weapon on civilians and in extrajudicial killings.

We cannot stand idly by while Turkey undermines the fight against ISIS, attacks our Kurdish allies, and puts hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians in harm’s way.

These sanctions are an appropriate response that holds Turkey responsible for its actions and provides incentives for President Erdogan to change course.

One thing I learned during my time as an undercover officer in the CIA is that America only succeeds when our partners in the region and friends in Europe come together to provide assistance to Kurds and refugees in both Syria and Iraq.

As members of NATO, both the U.S. and Turkey have committed to unite their efforts for collective defense and for preservation of peace and security. I hope our Turkish counterparts will recommit to these principles and work with us to address shared security concerns and protect the successes of joint U.S.-Kurdish efforts to drive ISIS out of Syria.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends, the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Texas, for their work and their commitment on this important, bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Kinzinger), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

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

It is sad that we are here. As a military member, I spent some time at the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey in ’06, or maybe a little before in ’05. I think we all, as Members of this body, have probably been there in our travels and see some amazing potential for a country that really straddles two continents and plays such an important role in the future. But it is sad to see what has happened.

So, I reluctantly have to rise today in support of H.R. 4695, the Protect AgainstTurkey Act, also known as the PACT Act.

I cosponsored this because I am worried about the direction of President Erdogan and the direction he is taking the Republic of Turkey.

The leader of a country with so much to offer the world should not be cozying up to the likes of Vladimir Putin and Bashar al-Assad—Vladimir Putin, who oversees a failing nation, quite honestly, and is not the future. Yet that is exactly what Erdogan is doing when he decided to invade Syria.

Far too many men, women, and children have died at the hands of Assad, Putin, and Khamenei.

It is unthinkable that a leader of a NATO nation would join the list of murderous thugs; but, given the latest developments in Syria, many of our Kurdish partners will likely die because of Erdogan’s offensive.

These are the same Kurdish fighters who, while we lost less than 20 soldiers in the fight against ISIS from combat, lost over 10,000 of their own men and women.

These are the same Kurdish fighters who spent the past 5 years hunting ISIS leader Abu al-Baghdadi alongside our men and women in uniform, and we saw that come to fruition in a great way this weekend.

Without their constant pressure on the ISIS networks, our operators may have never had the chance to bring him to justice—not to mention the fact that Turkey, inevitably, threatened to attack our troops in northern Syria.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor this. By applying targeted sanctions against those directly responsible for the operations, we are sending a message to the Erdogan government that the U.S. will hold them liable for their actions. If he does not want to act like a NATO nation, then his government will feel the repercussions of such decisions.

I thank Chairman Engel and Ranking Member McCaul for their steadfast leadership of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I commend them for their ability to work in a bipartisan manner to advance measures in America’s interest.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Pelosi), our Speaker of the House.

Ms. Pelosi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank Mr. Engel, distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the distinguished ranking member of the committee, Mr. McCaul, for their leadership in bringing this important, bipartisan bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, 3 weeks ago the President unleashed an escalation of chaos and insecurity in Syria when he gave Turkey the green light to attack our Kurdish partners, threatening lives, risking regional security, and undermining America’s credibility as a trustworthy ally.

And then, instead of holding Turkey accountable for its aggression, the President reversed his sanctions in exchange for a so-called cease-fire, which the Turks clearly stated was not a cease-fire.

Today, Democrats and Republicans together to demonstrate the strong, smart leadership that has sorely been lacking from the White House, as the House passed this tough, targeted sanctions bill to hold the Turks accountable for their attacks on our Kurdish partners.

We salute Chairman Engel and Ranking Member McCaul once again for their leadership on this PACT Act and on the resolution opposing President Trump’s decision on Syria, included in the Compact to Protect America’s Kurdistan Interests Resolution which passed the House on a 354-60 vote.

Here are the facts:

Our Kurdish partners freed millions of people and tens of thousands of square miles from the grip of ISIS. Throughout the fight, they sustained nearly 11,000 casualties.

Until recently, our Kurdish partners protected America’s security and the security of the region as more than 10,000 ISIS fighters and tens of thousands of ISIS family members were under their control.

Yet, in a matter of weeks, the President has put our progress at risk. Even with the death of al-Baghdadi, ISIS remains a serious and resurgent threat. The death of a top ISIS leader does not mean the death of ISIS.

Scores of fighters remain under uncertain conditions in Syrian prisons and at risk of a jailbreak. Nearly 800 ISIS supporters and family members have reportedly escaped. To say that Turkey and Syria still adequately guard the prisoners is outrageous and dangerous.

At the same time, more than 250,000 Kurdish civilians have fled their homes because of Turkish attacks. Dozens of civilians, in addition to possibly hundreds of brave Kurdish fighters, have been killed.

The only winners from the President’s disastrous decision in Syria are ISIS, the Syrian Government, Iran, and Russia.

With these targeted, strong sanctions, America is holding accountable top Turkish officials responsible for human rights abuses, including attacking innocent Kurdish civilians.

We are penalizing Turkish financial institutions that perpetuate President Erdogan’s corruption and abuses, and
are preventing the sale of arms to Turkey for use in Syria.

As the House passes this legislation, we again call upon the President to support the Kurdish communities and work to ensure that the Turkish military action does not derail the Trump administration to finally present a clear strategy to defeat ISIS.

Mr. Speaker, I know we have bipartisan support for this legislation. Again, I salute Ranking Member McCaul, and Chairman Engel, for bringing this legislation to the floor, which is a vote to support the sacrifice of our military and our allies and a vote to restore strength, strategy, and sanity to our national security policy. I think that a very strong, bipartisan vote in the House, similar to the one we had on H.J. Res. 77, will send a very clear message that we can come together—and we will come together—in the interest of our national security; in the interest of our American values, which are part of our strength; and, again, to fight terrorism wherever it exists so that it does not reach our shores.

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

I want to echo Madam Speaker’s comments. When we stand united on the floor of the Congress, as Americans, that is when we send the strongest message overseas to adversaries.

I want to thank Mr. Engel, for his strong work in working with me to get to a place where we can actually get to a solution to what has been a challenging and very fluid situation. It is always an honor to work with the gentleman on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

In these times of crises we are, I believe, stronger on the world stage when the executive and legislative branch speak in one voice.

In his testimony before our committee, Ambassador Jeffrey, the Special Envoy to Syria said:

I saw firsthand the effect of congressional sanctions when we visited with the Turkish negotiating team; that these sanctions have been helpful in getting the Turks to agree to the cease-fire.

And I believe the resolution that we passed helped get Turkey to the cease-fire as well.

Finally, I want to thank our partners in the Syrian Democratic Forces for their participation in conditioning ISIS. And I want to say to the SDF, from the Nation’s Capitol, on the House floor, that the American people are grateful for everything you have done for us, for everything you have worked for, and everything you have sacrificed to keep the world safer.

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

Mr. Engel. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

I would like to again thank Ranking Member McCaul for his partnership in writing this important bipartisan bill. And it is even more than just a partnership. It is working together on both sides of the aisle to do good for the American people. That is really what this should all be about, particularly when we’re talking about foreign affairs. So I want to thank Mr. McCaul for working closely with me and for really making this a real collaborative bill.

The measure before us represents what the Foreign Affairs Committee does best, common-sense legislation that advances American interests and American values on the global stage.

The PACT Act holds Turkey accountable for its bloodshed in Syria. It calls on Erdogan to immediately stop his campaign of ethnic cleansing to expel Syrian Kurds and other minority groups from their homeland, and to start living up to the democratic values that we expect from a NATO ally, values that, right now, are under constant attack in Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad coincidence. Today is the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey. For nearly a century, the Turkish people have fought hard to grow and preserve democracy in their country, and Erdogan has done such incredible damage to that legacy.

I call on all my colleagues to join me and Mr. McCaul in supporting this legislation and sending a strong message that the United States Congress will not condone Turkey’s horrific atrocities against the Kurds. Not only will we not condone it, we oppose it; we will speak out about it; and we will try in every way we can to stop it.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. Engel) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4695, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. Engel. 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.

HELP AMERICA RUN ACT

Ms. Lofgren. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1623) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as authorizations of expenditures, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—The Act may be cited as the “Help America Run Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Every day Americans experience barriers to entry before they can consider running for office to serve their communities.

(2) Current law states that campaign funds cannot be spent on expenses that would exist whether or not a candidate were running for office, like rent and food. While the law seems neutral, its actual effect is to penalize the independent or low-income candidate who want to run, because given the demands of running for office, candidates who must work to pay for childcare or to afford health insurance are effectively being left out of the process, even if they have sufficient support to mount a viable campaign.

(3) Thus current practice favors those prospective candidates who do not need to rely on a regular paycheck to make ends meet. The consequence is that everyday Americans who have firsthand knowledge of the importance of stable childcare, a safety net, or great public schools are less likely to get a seat at the table. This governance by the few is antithetical to the democratic experiment most of us believe in—when law-makers do not share the concerns of everyday Americans, their policies reflect that.

(4) These circumstances have contributed to a Congress that does not reflect everyday Americans. The New York Times reported in 2019 that fewer than 5 percent of representatives cite blue-collar or service jobs in their biography. A 2015 survey by the Center for Responsive Politics showed that the median net worth of lawmakers was just over $1 million in 2013, or 18 times the wealth of the typical American household.

(5) These circumstances have also contributed to a governing body that does not reflect the nation it serves. For instance, women are 51% of the American population. Yet even with a record number of women serving in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, the Pew Research Center found that only 3 out of every 10 legislators support women’s reproductive rights. That more than three out of four Members of this Congress are male. The Center for American Women And Politics found that one third of women legislators are still actively discouraged from running for office, often by political professionals. This type of discouragement, combined with the prohibitions on using campaign funds for domestic needs like childcare, burdens that still fall disproportionately on American women, particularly disadvantages working mothers. These barriers may explain why just over 30 women in history have given birth while serving in Congress, in spite of the prevalence of working parents in other professions. Yet working mothers who are best positioned to create policy that reflects the lived experience of most Americans.

(6) Working mothers, those caring for their elderly parents, and young professionals who rely on their jobs for health insurance should have the freedom to run to serve the people of the United States. Their networks and networks are simply not the measure of their strength as prospective public servants. In fact, helping ordinary Americans to run may create better policy for all Americans.

Purpose.—It is the purpose of this Act to ensure that all Americans who are otherwise qualified to serve this Nation are able to run for office, regardless of their economic status. By expanding the uses of campaign funds and providing modest assurance that testing a run for office will not...
There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1623. This measure is important. The Help America Run Act will amend the Federal Election Campaign Act with commonsense reforms to help everyday Americans run for office.

Current law does not directly address whether people who choose to run for office can use their campaign funds to cover the cost of childcare. This has led several individuals to have to appeal to the Federal Election Commission for evaluations on a case-by-case basis and creates a burden for candidates with school-aged children.

This bill addresses that barrier and other family-related barriers for candidates who have experiences like most everyday Americans.

The Help American Run Act makes running for office easier for working mothers and fathers who need payments for their small kids. It would support established professionals caring for an aging parent and help cover children’s health insurance on the campaign trail.

I know it would help moms like KATIE PORTER, the sponsor of this bill. She is championing this cause today as the very first single mother of young children ever to serve in the U.S. Congress.

These Americans caring for their kids and their parents intimately know the dread of opening those envelopes full of prescription drug bills. They know what it is like to weigh the risk of running for office to serve the Nation against the risk of losing their children’s health insurance coverage.

It is precisely those everyday Americans that I want to see us join at the decisionmaking table. Those who have firsthand knowledge of what it means to have stable childcare, good schools, and healthcare. And, really the people I want making decisions on both sides of this aisle. It makes our country profoundly richer to have those with the diversity of economic experiences in these Chambers. I know that firsthand.

As the daughter of a truck driver and a cafeteria cook, I worked on the night shift at the Eastman Kodak plant in Palo Alto to get ready for college. Those experiences shaped me into the person I am today, and I believe coming from a family like mine shouldn’t disqualify you. In fact, it makes you a better policy maker who understands what our constituents are really facing.

The fact is that diversity of experience leads to better policy. In 2019, the New York Times reported that fewer than 5 percent of Representatives cite blue-collar or service jobs in their biographies.

A 2013 survey by the Center for Responsive Politics showed that the median net worth for lawmakers was just over $1 million in 2013, or 18 times the wealth of the typical American house-
they can discuss with the people who are funding their campaigns.

What this bill does not do—let me repeat, Mr. Speaker. What this bill does not do is put more money in the pockets of current Members of Congress. Instead, it allows for an equal opportunity to run, to be able to serve, if elected, in this great institution; including single parents who want to run for Federal office but cannot afford the necessary childcare for the grueling campaign schedules that everyone in this institution knows exists.

Again, I want to thank Congresswoman Porter for her hard work on this legislation. I look forward to seeing it implemented, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER), the author of this bill.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am a single mom. When I ran for Congress last year, I spent thousands and thousands of dollars on childcare.

Running for Federal office requires 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100-hour workweeks, and I worked nearly every single day, including every single weekend. I also worked challenging hours, often starting at 5:30 a.m. and ending with campaign events stretching late into the evening. I juggled more than a dozen childcare providers for nearly 2 years, without whom I would have never made it to Congress.

I have three children. When I started my campaign, Betsy was 6, Paul was 9, and Luke was 11. Leaving them alone was not an option; and bringing them on the campaign trail was impossible or inappropriate.

For the past two centuries, Congress has written many, many laws about what women may or may not do. But until this year, women’s representation in Congress was less than 20 percent. With the election of the historic class of 2018, we hit 23.4 percent, 102 women, and that number is still egregiously low.

There are even fewer moms in Congress and even fewer moms of young kids and even fewer single moms of young kids, as I just mentioned.

A major barrier to women running for elected office is their inability to afford it. There is no right type of childcare needed in a campaign. That is why I introduced the Help America Run Act, which will explicitly allow candidates for Federal office to use campaign contributions to pay for childcare as well as other types of dependent care, such as eldercare.

Right now, candidates can use campaign funds for a whole gamut of expenses, from pizza for exhausted staff to cybersecurity for digital devices. But the law does not make it clear that childcare is among those allowed expenses.

Like so many laws, there is an assumption of a female caregiver behind every male elected official. In part because there are mothers who continue to shoulder the majority of childcare responsibilities also struggle to run for Congress.

Until women are fully and equally present in Congress, women’s perspective will continue to be underrepresented. The result is a weaker democracy for the people.

I am proud that this bill previously passed the House as part of H.R. 1, the For the People Act. Now, with the support of my congressional colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the House is taking this additional step to support women and candidates with families by passing the Help America Run Act.

Access to childcare services was a problem I faced like so many other single parents long before I decided to run for office. Every parent, not just those running for Congress, deserves to have access to quality, affordable childcare. The Help America Run Act should be only the beginning.

Today isn’t just about passing legislation to open up the Halls of Congress for single moms or single dads. It is about creating pathways for every parent and every American, regardless of socioeconomic status, to be able to achieve their goals. We all deserve a Congress that reflects the diversity of families and households in our country.

This bill will help America run and, in the process, will help America’s Congress run better.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

What an impassioned speech by our colleague. This isn’t just a problem for one gender running for Congress. It is a problem for all families. It is a problem that I faced when my kids were younger when I first ran for office a little over 6 1/2 years ago. It is what to do with young children who can’t go anywhere on their own at that time.

With twin boys aged 12, I don’t necessarily know that I trusted them going somewhere on their own. I don’t know if I trusted them at home alone, at the time. What you do to make sure your family gets the supervision and the supervisory opportunities that you need?

This is an opportunity for us to show anybody who wants to follow in what our forefathers of this great Nation put forth in our Constitution creating the House of Representatives to be able to be a House for the people and by the people to represent this great United States. This is going to be an opportunity for anyone, no matter what their situation. If they have children at home, if they are a single mom, if they are a single dad, if they are a family with kids, if they are wondering how they take on this challenge, how they get a chance to serve this great country, how they get a chance to join us, this is going to be their opportunity to say: I am going to go out and spend a lot of time raising money because many of these campaigns can tell you how much money it can cost. It costs millions upon millions of dollars and a lot of time. When you are gone, you are raising more money to run because campaigns are too expensive. We understand that. We get that. We agree on that.

This is a chance to say: I am going to get out there and get on the dance floor and take that chance. Too many people who may want to run for office won’t do it because they are afraid to lose. I think everyone has to have the chance to take away any excuse to be able to step out and put their name on the ballot to have a chance to do what we do.

If I, the son of a high school dropout and a guy who graduated high school who walked into a fast-food restaurant in 1959 and had a dream to own his own one day, if I, who had no family ever in politics or government, can come and stand on this floor today, my colleagues like Chairperson LOFGREN and Congresswoman Porter to help put good legislation like this through, anybody in this great country can do it.

It is a great opportunity for us to show the next generation that we care enough about them to be able to show them how to do exactly what we do.

Let’s all come together. Let’s make this happen today. It is a great opportunity for us to stand here on the floor and show the American people the Republicans and Democrats do agree on issues, and we do work together. I mean, maybe the news will cover it, maybe they won’t. We might be able to debate Nickelback or something and get them to cover it today.

But do you know what? We know what happens here. We know we have opportunities. We know that we are able to put good policies like this together. We know that friendships do exist on both sides of the aisle in this institution.

This is a great bill. This is an opportunity. I thank all of my colleagues who are supporting this.

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

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

Listening to my colleague, the ranking member, reminded me of when I ran for Congress the very first time. My children were in elementary school. Really, the high point of every day was going to the elementary school, Horace Mann Elementary School, San Jose, and standing with the other mothers while we said the Pledge of Allegiance, the flag outside.

I think, for parents, being a parent gives you a viewpoint that is helpful when you come to the Congress of the United States. You don’t forget what regular people are going through at home when you are a parent.
I also remember my first day in Congress. My mother had passed away several years before, but my dad was still alive, a retired beer truck driver. He had never been on an airplane in his life. We got him on a plane, and we had a friend sit next to him. He was at the airport, watching his daughter become a Member of the United States Congress.

I think for those of us who came from humble roots, we never forget where we came from, and it informs our perspective on where the country should go. I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER), the author of the bill.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his bipartisan and his cooperation on this because democracy is not a partisan value. Democracy is about letting every voice in this country be heard. Those voices should reflect the diversity of this country, both socioeconomically and geographically, but also in terms of family status.

I think everyone in America should be grateful that my children were well supervised during the campaign, and I am grateful that I was able to piece together the childcare that I needed to run. But this bill is not about any one of us. It is about the benefits that every one of us here and every American will get from having a more diverse Congress, from having voices heard that sometimes are not heard.

There are millions and millions and millions of single parents, men and women, in this country, and there is one in the United States Congress. Whether that will change next year or in 10 years, I don’t know, but I want every American who wants to serve in this body, who wants to come together to work for the good of the American people, to have the opportunity to make that happen and not to have to choose for a parent being a good parent and caring about your kids, and being a good American and being a good Congress Member.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PORTER. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask Ms. PORTER this: Your legislation doesn’t tell candidates they have to spend money on this, right?

Ms. PORTER. It is providing for that eldercare, and it is generally a female candidate, to a childcare option, if a candidate, and it is caring for elderly parents, this could be an opportunity to serve together and make happen.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that we neglected to point out is that, in addition to a childcare option, if a candidate, and it is generally a female candidate, it is caring for elderly parents, this could also be used for eldercare while going to a campaign event. That is also both son’s and daughter’s care for aging parents, and, oftentimes, it is the daughters who end up providing the eldercare.

If someone is running for Congress and is providing for that eldercare, they obviously can’t go to the campaign event with someone who is bedridden or in need of constant attention. This would allow for that very important possibility, just as childcare is.

Unless the author wishes a further comment, I would urge adoption of this amendment with bipartisan support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
Ms. LOFGREN. 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 measures under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

This resolution establishes the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program, which will provide fellowships in congressional offices for immediate family members of the Armed Forces who have given their lives in service to this country.

Members of the Armed Forces do not serve by themselves. They are supported by children, spouses, siblings, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury, as amended.

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

H. Res. 107

Resolved, SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This resolution may be cited as the “SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act”.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD STAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the House of Representatives the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program described in subsection (b), and the House of Representatives, or an eligible individual may serve a 12-month fellowship in the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

(b) APPOINTMENT FOR PURPOSES OF LIMIT ON NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN MEMBER OFFICES.—Any individual serving a fellowship under the Program in the office of a Member shall not be included in the determination of the number of employees employed by the Member under section 104(a) of the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 522(a)).

(c) PLACEMENT IN MEMBER OFFICES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.—Any individual serving a fellowship under the Program at the Member’s office in the District of Columbia or the Member’s office in the congressional district the Member represents may consume:

(d) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term “eligible individual” means the child (including a stepchild), spouse, or sibling of—

(1) a person who dies in the line of duty while serving as a member of the Armed Forces (including the reserve components and the National Guard), regardless of the duty status of the member while serving, unless such death was the result of the willful misconduct of the member; or

(2) a veteran who is a service-connected disability (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) during the 4-year period beginning on the date of the last discharge or release of the veteran from the Armed Forces.

(e) REGULATIONS.—The Program shall be carried out in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Committee on House Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. 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 measures under consideration.

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

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.
into the workings of the United States Congress, but it will also be a platform for them to, if they wish, expand their employment opportunities, just as our Wounded Warrior Program has done so.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the author of the bill. I thank the ranking member for making this work and I am glad that this is bipartisan, as well the prior bill.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to take this opportunity to offer one of our great colleagues from the great State of Nebraska the opportunity to speak in favor—like TRENT KELLY from Mississippi—one of the former generals, or current generals, who serves in our Nation’s military, but whom we also have the great privilege of serving with here in this institution, General DON BACON.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

Mr. Speaker, I want to take the time to thank Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. DAVIS for guiding this discussion, this debate today, and TRENT KELLY for submitting a great bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution which honors the memory of two great American warriors: Army Sergeant First Class Sean Cooley and Army Specialist Chris Horton. These heroes rest in honored glory, servants to our great Republic, who answered the call and gave their lives fighting for our freedoms.

As a veteran, I have had the opportunity to serve with some of America’s finest, and I have also experienced the loss and the families that have lost loved ones in defense of this Nation.

But my story with the Gold Star goes back to my own child. You see, my dad was a veteran. He was a medic in World War II. He was involved in the D-Day invasion. He went all the way through from Normandy, through France, into Belgium, and then on into Germany.

I remember when I was young, I was going through this photo album that my mom had, and as I was flipping through seeing the pictures that my dad brought back from World War II, there was this interesting picture of a banner hanging inside of a church.

And I remember when I asked her about this, because my children recently, just a few years ago, were going through the album not long before my mom and my dad passed away. They saw that same picture and they asked the same question I asked: What is this? This banner had names, various names of people, and next to the names was a silver star or a gold star.

I remember when my children asked the question: “What does this mean?” My mom, who was a teenager at the time, said: “This banner was in the entrance of our church, and the names on it were all the boys from our church that were killed in the European or the Pacific theater. And the silver star at the time indicated that they were deployed into the combat area.”

But then she kind of got teary-eyed, and she said: “But when it was a gold star, it meant that they had been killed in action.”

I remember her telling about the D-Day invasion, because they knew that something was going to happen. They knew we were going to invade, but they didn’t know exactly when. And the night of the invasion, when President Roosevelt took to the airwaves and led the Nation in a prayer for the invasion, her father told her to go throughout the town of Waha, South Carolina, and gather everyone to come to the church and pray.

She said they stayed and they prayed in the church all night long. But she said a couple of days later, when they went back to the church, she looked, and several of those names, even had gold stars, including the pastor, the pastor’s son. I remember her telling the impact that it had upon those families.

Many of these families are devastated, not only at the loss of their loved one who gave their life for our freedom, but at the life they will have to endure, the responsibilities that they will take on solely for that family.

I got to know a family when I was in the State legislature whose son was killed in Iraq during the war on terror. I was able to name an intersection after Justin Johnson. His story went on because his family were such patriots, even though his mom was a Gold Star Mother at that point.

His father wanted to complete the mission for which his son had started and reenlisted back into the National Guard. Unfortunately, his unit was not going to be deployed, so he asked to be actually transferred to a unit that was going to deploy, which the Army did. He went and fulfilled the mission that his son wasn’t able to complete.

I have seen and I have worked with these families and know the tragic situations they are in. And, as others have, there is actually a wounded warrior on our staff, Chase Sanger, an Army airborne veteran, who is one of the finest of that our Nation has produced.

To be able to extend this on to the families of those heroes, I think is not only admirable, but it is something that we should have done a long time ago. So, I salute my colleague, General Kelly, for bringing this forward. I give it my utmost support, and I think this is well overdue.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, this is one of those rare opportunities where we get to talk about our heroes.

The worst vote I think any of us would ever have to take is a vote to authorize to send young men and women off to war, off to battle, to protect the freedoms and the liberties that many of us in this country take for granted every single day. We expect freedom and liberty to exist in the United States of America, but it doesn’t happen without the courage and the sacrifice of so many families throughout our Nation’s history. I cannot imagine.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this vote in 6½ years, and I hope and pray every day that I don’t personally ever have to take it. But many in this...
institution, who have been here and have served here, have had to make that vote.

I could not imagine what our Gold Star families go through when they get that knock on the door. But to know that the legacy of their young sons and daughters lives on in a fellowship program here in the United States House of Representatives—because General TRENT KELLY and his team and an idea from his constituents is now moving forward in the next step to become law is one thing that we can do here in the House of Representatives to honor those families who have sacrificed so much.

We often imagine the future of what would have happened if these young men and women would have been able to come back home, families torn apart by tragedy at a time when their sacrifice gave us the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy being able to serve here.

We have an opportunity today to say thank you again. This is our opportunity to show those families that their sons and daughters perishing during battle, or/on combat-related deaths, like Petty Officer Logan Palm er from Harristown, Illinois, in my district, let’s say thank you to them. Let’s let their memory go on.

Let’s let the next generation of people who, like Chairperson LOFGREN and I, we started out as congressional staff ers. Do you know what, I think both of us are here because of that experience. And to have this program, this Gold Star Fellowship Program, allow young men and women, who have been affected by so much, come into our institution, who knows, maybe they will be the next chairperson and ranking member of the House Administration Committee, and maybe their constituents, like General KELLY’s constituents, will give them a great idea like this, and maybe they will be able to move it on the next step in becoming law.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairperson LOFGREN again for allowing us the opportunity, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, like Mr. DAVIS, I do believe that this fellowship will provide a rewarding experience for the families who decide to participate, whether it is in Washington, to participate and observe in the making of legislation, or whether it is in our district offices, going to bat for veterans, standing up for people who need help from a congressional office. It is very rewarding, but also very educational. And I know that it will be a rewarding experience for those families who participate.

I thank the author of the bill, Mr. KELLY, for his persistence in getting this wrong adjustment that input came in so that we can have consensus and proceed on this.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), my colleague and wounded warrior, a hero. I am glad I get the opportunity to serve with heroes like the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD). Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act sponsored by my colleague, Mr. KELLY.

Mr. Speaker, our men and women in uniform are part of a long line of patriots whose unwavering commitment to our Nation has preserved the rich legacy of freedom that we each enjoy every day.

Our military families are the forces behind our Armed Forces, and it is our duty to also support and care for them, especially when their loved one pays the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation.

I am proud to support this legislation, named after two fallen American soldiers, Sergeant First Class Sean Cooley and Specialist Christopher Horton. This resolution will provide fellowships in congressional offices to Gold Star family members, giving them the opportunity to drive policy change here in Washington and serve our country in their own way.

Our fallen men and women in uniform stepped forward and answered the call to serve. It is our turn to do our part to honor their legacy of service and sacrifice by keeping the ones that we leave behind in the forefront of our minds as we make decisions in this body.

With passage of this legislation, we will send a message to our Gold Star families that they are not forgotten, and the American people stand behind them and support them.

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

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY), and I can’t tell you how proud I am to yield to the sponsor of this legislation, somebody who deserves a lot of thanks for moving this bill forward.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this is one of my most momentous occasions here in the House of Representatives. We are recognizing the men and women who died in service of this great Nation and understanding that when they left here, they left families behind.

These are two—Sean Cooley and Chris Horton—who died in service of this great Nation. I have got their pictures up here to show what warriors they were. But they left families behind.

We are establishing this Gold Star Fellowship Program to honor these men, and many other men and women like them, who have given their all to defend this Nation.

Ronald Reagan used the words of Thomas Jefferson when he said, the braid of patriots is needed from time to time to refresh the tree of liberty—something to that effect. We have to make sure that we always honor those who give the ultimate sacrifice for this great Nation.

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Providing them with an opportunity for their spouse or their children to find employment in something that they feel is also meaningful, because many of them have such a patriotic heart, they want to continue to serve.

One of the things that I have often said to many of my veterans and friends who have served is that when we take that oath of office, there are a lot of things that we swear to, to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, up to and including giving your own life, but one thing that is not in that oath of office is an expiration date.

Many veterans and their families, even at the end of their regular service, still feel that need and that desire to serve. This bill will give an opportunity for those family members to continue to serve their country in a meaningful way.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY), and I can’t tell you how proud I am to yield to the sponsor of this legislation, somebody who deserves a lot of thanks for moving this bill forward.

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and women who not only serve this Na-
tion, but families who serve this Na-
tion by allowing their family member to
serve. Such bravery and such patri-
ots. As long as we have them, this Na-
tion will always sustain.

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
ance on clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-
ished business is the vote on adoption
of the resolution (H. Res. 296) affirming
the United States record on the Arme-
rian Genocide, on which the yeas and
nays were ordered.

Mr. Hudson. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in
support of H. Res. 107—the SFC Sean
Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congres-
sional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program
Act.

As the Representative of Fort Bragg, NC,
the epicenter of the universe, and one of
the fastest growing veteran populations in
the country, I am all too familiar with what it
means to be a “Gold Star Family”. Our com-
nunity has many of these families who have
lost a loved one in the line of duty while serv-
ing our country and we remember them each
and every day.

This resolution before us today would give
a renewed sense of optimism to some of these
family members by providing them the unique
opportunity to take part in a 12-month con-
gressional fellowship in a Congressional of-
fice. This fellowship would be modeled after
other successful programs to include the wound-
eder fellowship that already exists.

Many of our offices have benefited by add-
ing various types of fellows to our staff and I’m
sure we would love to benefit from having a
gold star family member as well. Nothing will
ever be able to replace the loss of a loved
one, but today we have the opportunity to pro-
vide an opportunity to those who have already
sacrificed so much. I would ask all of my col-
leagues to support this resolution and look for-
ward to its passage and having a gold star
family fellow in my office soon.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I’d
like to thank the Chairwoman from California,

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceed-
ings will resume on questions pre-
viously postponed.

Vote will be taken in the following order:
Agreeing to House Resolution 296;
and
Motions to suspend the rules and pass:
H.R. 4695;
and
Agree to H. Res. 107, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be con-
ducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant
to clause 8 of rule XX, remaining elec-
tronic votes will be conducted as 5-
minute votes.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I think
this has been an excellent debate high-
lighting the bipartisan support for this fellow-
ship. It is the bipartisan gratitude to those
who served and those who gave their lives for this country and for the
families they left behind. There is no honor big enough that we could pos-
sibly give to them, but this fellowship is a tool that is important, and it is something that we have
done in a bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that every Mem-
ber of this body will be supportive of it,
and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in
support of H. Res. 107—the SFC Sean
Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congres-
sional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program
Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of no quorum is consid-
ered withdrawn.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-
ished business is the vote on adoption
of this resolution.

I stand here today Mister Speaker and truly
thank God for our men and women in uniform
who are willing to sacrifice their lives for this
great nation.

I would like to especially thank Mrs. Jane
Horton for her tireless effort and dedication to
the families of the fallen and all the Gold Star
families in the Gallery this afternoon.

Your service and your sacrifice are a true
inspiration to us all.

As the Representative of Fort Bragg, NC,
the epicenter of the universe, and one of
the fastest growing veteran populations in
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leagues to support this resolution and look for-
ward to its passage and having a gold star
family fellow in my office soon.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I’d
like to thank the Chairwoman from California,

my esteemed colleague from Illinois, and their
staffs for helping us get this bill to the floor.

From the immortal words of Thomas Jeffer-
sion and Ronald Reagan, “The tree of liberty
must be refreshed from time to time with the
blood of patriots and tyrants.”

H. Res. 107. The Sergeant First Class Sean
Cooley and Specialist Christopher Horton Con-
gressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Pro-
gram Act takes a monumental and vitally
important step toward educating the members
of this chamber on the true costs of armed
conflict.

Named after two warriors who lost their lives
fighting America’s enemies, this program pro-
vides the spouses, the children, and the sib-
lings of those who gave their lives in service
to our great nation in armed conflict or com-
bat-related training, a paid fellowship with the
Congressperson of their choice, here in Wash-
ington, or in their home district.

When our servicemembers make the ulti-
mate sacrifice, there is no award, no amount of
money or no program that can ever make
their families whole again. But what this pro-
gram does do, is it gives the families left be-
hind a chance to participate in our great
democratic process at the national level.

Their sacrifice was not in vain.

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

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant
to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-
ished business is the vote on adoption
of this resolution.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The Speaker pro tempore (during the vote). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. MEADOWS changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. SMITH of Missouri changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4685) to impose sanctions with respect to Turkey, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Speaker pro tempore. The motion is offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGROSS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 16, not voting 12, as follows: [Roll No. 592]
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE JOHN CONYERS, JR.

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today with the Michigan delegation and my beloved members of the Congressional Black Caucus to pay honor and tribute to the life of John Conyers. He passed away this past weekend.

As we know, John Conyers was the dean of this Congress. He served 53 years. He served as chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as well as the Judiciary.

We stand here today to recognize his fight for civil rights, his fight to have the Martin Luther King birthday celebration in Washington, his fight against apartheid, his fight to ensure that we in this country never lose sight of our criminal justice that is not equal, and his fight for justice for all.

We often remember him walking around with his kite on his head, this House, and I ask at this time if we could have a moment of silence.

Would everyone please stand.

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPC SEAN COOLEY AND SPC CHRISTOPHER HORTON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD STAR FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, as amended, and to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFERENCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: ‘‘Resolution establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Members of the House of Representatives of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty or certain veterans who die from service-connected disabilities.’’

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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Would everyone please stand.

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPOSITIONS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 2019

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4842) to authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4842

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 ‘‘Expositions Provide Opportunities Act of 2019’’ or ‘‘EXPO Act of 2019’’.

SEC. 2. STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR PAVILION AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 204 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donavan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b), there is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for the United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, subject to subsections (b) and (c).

(b) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Funds made available pursuant to subsection (a) to the Department of State for a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai shall be made available on a cost-matching basis, to the maximum extent practicable, from sources other than the United States Government.

(c) NOTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available pursuant to subsection (a) to the Department of State for a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai may be obligated only after the appropriate congressional committees are notified not less than 15 days prior to such obligation.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Such notification shall include the following:

(A) A description of the source of such funds, including any funds reprogrammed or transferred by the Department of State to be made available for such pavilion.

(B) An estimate of the amount of investment such pavilion could bring to the United States.

(C) A description of the strategy of the Department to identify and obtain such matching funds from sources other than the United States Government, in accordance with subsection (b).

(D) An analysis of the human rights record of the United Arab Emirates.

(E) A certification that each entity receiving amounts for a contract, grant, or other agreement to construct, maintain, or otherwise service such pavilion—

(i) is not in violation of the labor laws of the United Arab Emirates, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (Public Law 95–213), and any other applicable anti-corruption laws; and

(ii) does not employ, or otherwise utilize, a victim of trafficking (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)).

(d) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai is opened, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes:

(1) the number of United States businesses that participated in such pavilion; and

(2) the dollar amount and source of any matching funds obtained by the Department.

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘‘appropriate congressional committees’’ means the following:

(1) The Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(f) SUNSET.—This section ceases to be effective on September 30, 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The request of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4842.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Expositions Provide Opportunities Act, or the EXPO Act of 2019.

When I took the oath of office on January 3 of this year, my extraordinary team and I set an ambitious goal: To visit every city and town in Minnesota’s Third Congressional District within the first 6 months of my
service; and to listen and learn from the local leaders who know our communities best, and bring their voices to Washington, because representation begins with listening.

In Bloomington, Minnesota, we heard something powerful, and I knew we had to help. The city of Bloomington is determined to bring the eyes of the world to Minnesota by bidding for host city of the 2027 World Expo. For generations, the United States has showcased our leadership, innovation, and industrial advancement through brilliant displays called pavilions at world expos around the world. But for the past 3 decades, the U.S. has fallen short of its historic leadership role and fundraising for 7 of the last 10 American pavilions has been paltry.

In fact, the United States is the only G7 country that relies on private donations to guarantee its presence at world expos, and the only country that relies entirely on private funding for the creation of its pavilion.

Madam Speaker, that has left a vacuum, which our strategic competitors, like Russia and China, have been all too happy to fill.

As a result, American cities like Bloomington, Minnesota, and Houston, Texas, have been overlooked for hosting rights; missing important opportunities to build strong international relationships, showcase the strength of American ingenuity, and boost local economies.

A critical component in competing for host city status is a country’s pavilion at the world expo. In this case, the next opportunity to make the case for an American host city is the Dubai 2020 World Expo, happening next October.

That is why I am honored to stand with the city of Bloomington, Global Minnesota, the entire Minnesota House delegation, and a group of like-minded colleagues from both sides of the aisle, like Ranking Member McCaul, and Representatives PETE OLSON, LIZZIE FLUMENMANN, and Representative Ted YOHO to change all of that with the Expositions Provide Opportunities Act, the EXPO Act of 2019.

Our bill does three things. First, it provides authorization for the State Department to use funds to build a pavilion for the 2020 Dubai World Expo, so that cities in the U.S., like Bloomington and Houston, can compete to be the host city at the 2027 World Expo.

Next, it requires the State Department to issue matching funds from the private sector in order to alleviate the cost burden.

Finally, it requires a series of reports from the State Department which shall contain the following items:

1. An estimate of the investment a pavilion could bring to the United States;
2. A report on the human rights record of the United Arab Emirates; and
3. Ensures that all applicable labor laws in the UAE are followed during construction of our pavilion.

Madam Speaker, we could not have brought this bill to the floor without help. I would like to thank Speaker PELOSI, Leader HOYER, and Leader McCARTHY for their support and their staffs’ work on this important bill. I would also like to thank Ranking Member McCaul for his support and his staff’s expertise in crafting the bill. And thanks also to Chairman ENGEL and his staff, especially Janice Kaguyutan, who was instrumental in helping Darryl using.

The root of this effort started in Minnesota with former Minnesota Secretary of State and now Global Minnesota President, Mark Ritchie. He was and will always be steadfast in his advocacy on behalf of Minnesota.

Most of all, I am grateful to the city of Bloomington, Minnesota, especially Mayor Gene Winsted and City Manager Jamie Verbrugge, for their counsel and advocacy on behalf of all Minnesotans.

Madam Speaker, this is how democracy should work; Democrats and Republicans in Congress, working with stakeholders, constituents, and a government that is committed to crafting legislation which will benefit both localities and the Nation as a whole.

So I urge my colleagues to support this important, bipartisan measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of strong U.S. diplomatic engagement to counter aggression from our adversaries.

The World Expo is the largest diplomatic exhibition and an invaluable opportunity to demonstrate American leadership to an audience of over 25 million visitors. The United States has proudly participated in the World Expo since 1851 and has hosted 11 expos.

Over a 6-month period, the United States will showcase our values and our commitment to rule of law. With our presence at important international forums like the World Expo, we risk losing out to countries like China and Russia.

In fact, China has committed over $100 million for their participation in the 2020 World Expo with the goal of promoting their Belt and Road Initiative. And get this: Huawei 5G technology is the provider for the whole World Expo. They have also signaled interest in competing to host a future expo.

China is at the forefront of our strategic long-range diplomatic, security, and economic policies here in Washington. We must stop Communist China from achieving global dominance. Make no mistake. This is their goal.

Under Xi Jinping’s leadership, the Chinese Communist Party is challenging America’s leadership like never before; stepping up territorial aggression and Washington and allies, openly engaging in unfair and illegal business practices, and exporting authoritarian ideologies across the globe.

Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative and associated debt traps have set the stage for economic and diplomatic coercion and military expansion. That is one of the reasons I introduced the BUILD Act last Congress—and through bipartisan support it got passed and was signed into law—that creates the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

If we, the American government, are not there, how can we compete against China’s Belt and Road Initiative?

As part of this program, China has tried to build military bases in the South Pacific to cut us off from partners like Australia and New Zealand, and they are going to continue this expansion.

In Africa, they have a military base next to ours in Djibouti. China has even made major roads in the Western Hemisphere, controlling both sides of the Panama Canal. I was down in the countries of Chile and Argentina not too long ago, and China is looking and trying to push really hard to bring 5G cable from China to South America. This is something that America cannot do—we cannot stand by idly. And if we are not there at the World Expo to promote our U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, how else are we going to get this word out? This is something that is a national security interest.

In addition, China has also cornered the market on rare earth minerals. They control over 85 percent of the world supply of the API, which is the active pharmaceutical ingredients, in all the vitamins, antibiotics, and drugs that we take. They have 100 percent of the vitamins and minerals used in our livestock feed. China, when they ship that product back, it’s impure. It doesn’t meet FDA standards.

China has been at the forefront of 5G technology, as I mentioned. In fact, Huawei, which the U.S. has deemed a national security threat, has received the contract for the 5G expansion.

As we work to combat this continued and ever-increasing aggression, we must ensure that our partners know the United States intends to remain present.

The United States’ absence at important international forums like the World Expo only gives China the opportunity to spread their ideals; ones they claim are merely “socialism with Chinese characteristics.” But make no mistake, it is communism through and through.

We cannot let China fill a void left by the United States. The stakes are too high.

And understand this: If the United States doesn’t show up—there are only two countries that don’t show up. One is the United States and the other is Syria. I don’t want to be in that category.

This is a bill that we ask everybody to support. It is good for America. It is good for American business, and it is great for national security.
Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), my good friend, for his remarks as well.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this very important and bipartisan bill which allows America to compete on the world stage.

As I said before, representation starts with listening and if we pass this bill, we will have shown the American people that Democrats and Republicans can put their differences aside, listen to their constituents, and get something done.

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

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4842, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE TIMING OF SECRETARY RICK PERRY’S RESIGNATION

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to express deep concern about the timing of Secretary Rick Perry’s resignation, and his simultaneous refusal to provide key information on his many trips to Ukraine, more than any other Cabinet member. He has played a central role in U.S.-Ukraine relations throughout the Trump Presidency.

Thus far, Secretary Perry has refused to comply with lawful subpoenas issued to him by the Intelligence Committee and other committees of this Congress. As chair of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, while I have had a productive relationship with Secretary Perry in the past, from strengthening our National Laboratories, to supporting the growing range of energy solutions, I feel his recent behavior raises serious questions.

Madam Speaker, American taxpayers have a right to know what Secretary Perry was doing on his frequent travel to Ukraine as a public servant beholden to the public trust. Americans have a right to know what he observed, who he was meeting with, and who was benefiting from the contacts and deals he was making.

The Constitution entrusts the House of Representatives with holding the executive branch accountable. That is what we must do.

As U.S. foreign policy in Ukraine has been sidelined in favor of President Trump’s personal and political agenda and abuse of power, Secretary Perry should do what is right, and immediately comply with the House’s investigation. America deserves nothing less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Poe Bostic, an American hero and Korean war combat veteran who passed away in August of this year at 87 years of age.

Mr. Bostic joined the Marine Corps at the age of 16 during the Korean war. He fought at the amphibious invasions and battles at Inchon and Seoul. He also participated in the Blockade of Wonsan, the longest naval blockade in modern history, and the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, known as the Frozen Chosin due to the harsh winter weather conditions.

Mr. Bostic was proud to serve his country and proud to be a marine.

Mr. Bostic retired from Y-12 Martin Marietta in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, after a 40-year career. He was an active member of the Campbell County Honor Guard; commander of the Disabled American, Veterans Appalachian Chapter 106; and commander of the Campbell County Young Marines.

There are real heroes in this world, Madam Speaker, and they aren’t music stars, famous athletes, or Hollywood actors. Our country’s heroes are the men and women of our Armed Forces like Mr. Bostic, who served and sacrificed for our freedom.

It is my honor to recognize Edward Poe Bostic as the Tennessee Second District’s October 2019 Veteran of the Month.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, last week, we celebrated the beginning of Kindness Month. He always said our children are the living messengers we send to a future we will never see. Nothing could be truer.

In addition, students and young advocates inspire me every single day, so I want to share with all of you an initiative that students in my district launched this month. Students at the Interboro School District are wrapping up their celebration of Kindness Month, a program inspired by Sandy Hook Elementary School to reduce bullying and reduce school violence.

Since the beginning of October, Interboro students have been encouraged to say a simple “hello” to students they might see every day but not usually speak to or to hold the door for someone they don’t know.

In honor of Kindness Month, I, too, have committed to reaching across the aisle to say hello and strike up conversations with colleagues I may not know that well.

We all have something to learn from the Interboro students as we work together to create a world that is more respectful, fair, and kind for this generation and the next.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL JEFFERSON S. BURTON

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on November 7, Utah will honor a soldier’s soldier.

For the past 7 years, the men and women of the Utah National Guard have been inspired by Major General Jefferson S. Burton. General Burton was chosen for his battle-tested grit and resolve.

In 2003, this fourth-generation Utahn led the 14-57th Engineer Battalion into Iraq. Living under constant threat of IEDs and ambush, General Burton was even tasked with luring the hyenas, bears, and lions of the Baghdad Zoo back into their enclosures after the Iraqi Republican Guard released them into the streets.

His troops tell me that General Burton is a leader who takes the time to teach and mentor others, helping them recognize their own potential.

General Burton is highly educated. He is kind. He is deeply spiritual. But what he values most is his wife, Charn, whose support has allowed him to serve.

General Burton often tells his soldiers: “I am asking a lot, but we will accomplish the mission.”

After 37 years of service, we say to General Burton: Mission accomplished.

CELEBRATING KINDNESS MONTH

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, last week, we celebrated the beginning of Kindness Month. He always said our children are the living messengers we send to a future we will never see. Nothing could be truer.

Much has been said about his legacy and dedication to the people of Maryland’s Seventh District, but I rise to honor his humility and incredible love for our country.

Not knowing that he was near the end of his life, I was honored to have several very personal conversations with Congressman Cummings. He was struggling with health issues and knew I could relate. But he was concerned with more than just his health at that
Like the Community Services Block timeline, social skills on an accelerated level will enable reading, writing, math, and even a few books to the classes, as well.

Action Organization. It was truly an honor, without exaggeration. You could clear your mind. He was concerned about our country.

America has come a long way during his lifetime, but he knew it would not take much to undo the progress that we have made, and he was worried about it. It was an honor to have such a community services Block to the classes, as well.

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Head Start Awareness Month.

Since 1965, Head Start has been one of our best tools in the war on poverty, helping over 35 million children from ages 0 to 5 reach their full potential through high-quality early education.

This month, as we paid tribute to the game-changing program, I rise to honor Head Start programs in California’s 21st Congressional District and the vital work they do to support Central Valley communities.

This summer, I brought my esteemed colleague Congresswoman BARBARA LEE to the Rosa Parks Learning Center in Hanford, a top-tier Head Start center operated by the Kings Community Action Organization. It was truly an honor to see talented Central Valley educators at work and to join them in the classroom. We even got to read a couple of books to the classes, as well.

We all know that even part-time early childhood education has a lasting impact on young kids, helping them develop reading, writing, math, and even social skills on an accelerated timeline.

I am also proud to support legislation like the Community Services Block Grant Act so we can keep providing quality education to all of our kids regardless of ZIP Code.

SALUTING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER VINDMAN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, the State of Texas has a large number of Active-Duty men and women and veterans. I rise today to salute Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, who appeared in uniform today to the United States Congress to tell the truth.

Unfortunately, there were those who wanted to analyze Lieutenant Colonel Vindman’s early beginnings. As a 3-year-old, he came from another country. But I think it is important to say what Mr. COX said.

I read his testimony. It was straightforward, detailed. It certainly was without exaggeration. You could clearly see that this man cared about his Nation.

We should respect the men and women of the United States military, particularly a Purple Heart recipient, a wounded warrior who fought for his country and America.

I thank him for coming forward as a patriot, as a man in the United States military, as one who has no issue with any person. He simply wants to tell the truth.

Since we need just a little bit of expression here today, I conclude my remarks by saying: Go Astros. I wish them well. That is what America is about.

HONORING HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH

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STAND AGAINST INVIDIOUS DISCRIMINATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCANLON). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designate of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise because I love my country.

And I rise tonight also because we had a hearing today in the Committee on Financial Services. We had the hearing today because of words that Dr. King called to our attention. He reminded us that, in a real sense, all of life is relative. He said that life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly.

He went on to say that I can never be all that I ought to be until you are all that you ought to be, and you can never be all that you ought to be until I am all that I ought to be.

This hearing was held because we wanted to highlight and recognize the fact that invidious discrimination exists for persons who are members of the LGBTQ community. Tonight, I want to talk about this invidious discrimination not only as it relates to the LGBTQ community, but also as it relates to other communities within our country. In fact, all of these communities are a part of humanity.

With reference to the LGBTQ community, we had empirical evidence that proved beyond reasonable doubt that members of this community are being discriminated against when they apply for loans. They are being charged higher interest rates and a greater percentage than persons who are not members of the LGBTQ community.

They are being discriminated against on their jobs. They are being charged more for their health insurance premium than persons who are not members of the LGBTQ community.

They are being discriminated against when they apply for jobs if it is known or suspected that they are members of the LGBTQ community, discriminated against in being promoted, in pay raises.

The LGBTQ-plus community is being discriminated against. It does not make good sense to do this. It is irrational. But it also does not make good dollars and cents to do this because we are talking about millions of people. The estimates are as high as 16 million. Some say more, some say less. We are talking about a $1 trillion economy within the community.

It just makes good sense for us not to discriminate against people who want to put their money into the economy, who want to put their work product into the economy, who want to help America succeed. It does not make good sense for this level of discrimination to exist, but it does.

One of the salient messages that we wanted to impart at this hearing today was the message that you are not alone. There are persons who are allies of the LGBTQ community who are going to stand with you, who are going to stand for you, and who are going to stand against the invidious discrimination being perpetrated upon you.

Life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny.

The Muslim community is being, has been, and most likely will continue to be discriminated against until there is some change in this country. We have had from the highest office in the land an indication that Muslims should be banned from the country. An attempt was made to pass such a ban of Muslim persons from the country.

Life is an inescapable network of mutuality. If you can ban one religion, you can ban another. Muslims today—only fate knows which it will be tomorrow. We must protect all of them.

This is the way life works, the mutuality. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly.

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This is the way life works, the mutuality. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly.

People of color are being discriminated against in an invidious way. In the Latinx community, the family separation that took place at the border was unconscionable.

It is hard to believe that this country that holds out the welcome torch, the Statue of Liberty, this country that has brought in immigrants from across the globe would turn away children who are fleeing harm’s way in the way that we did it: this country that has a history rooted in immigration would do such a thing, babies crying for their mothers as they are being torn out of their arms.

It is a sad thing when you contemplate it. It is a very sad thing when you see it perfected.

We cannot allow this to happen to children who are coming here trying to flee harm’s way, because the truth be known, but for the grace of God, there go I and possibly you. We all can have dates with destiny that we cannot contemplate in the present.

So we ought to protect the rights of people who are fleeing harm’s way. We are only asking for what the law provides. In this context, the law in this country does provide for people who are fleeing harm’s way to come and say, “I am here. I am here because...”
I need help. Will you help me? Will you give me the opportunity to demonstrate that I qualify for the opportunity to become a part of this country?" rather than summarily turn people away or send out a clarion message, "We say no more room. Don’t come. Go back."

This is not the country that does this.

To borrow a phrase from a great and noble American who has made his transition to the other side the Coalition of Immokalee Farmers: We are better than this. This country understands that we must continue to be the light for the world when it comes to righteousness.

When it comes to African Americans, we have a history, a long history of invidious discrimination, a very long history. A Civil War was fought because of the invidious discrimination being perpetrated, the hate, if you will, that was being perpetrated upon African Americans.

And today, within the last several months, perhaps a year or so, we have had the Chief Executive Officer proclaim that we have some s-hole countries, countries that are predominated by persons from Africa, where Africans are the indigenous population.

But persons in this country, persons of color, of African ancestry, are being discriminated against as I speak, as is the case with the others that I have mentioned earlier, I might add, also being discriminated against.

And there are people who say, when we talk to people about the issues that are of concern to them, we ought to talk about kitchen table issues. Well, I can tell you without question, reservation, hesitation, or equivocation, when African Americans talk about kitchen table issues, they talk about invidious discrimination. They may not use this terminology, but the import of what they say is the same.

There are persons being discriminated against on the job.

They say: I have suffered discrimination when I have tried to apply for a loan.

They say: I have suffered discrimination when I have sought to get a promotion.

They talk about discrimination. It is a kitchen table issue. But there are those who don’t see it as such, or if they do, they don’t talk about it as such. It is a kitchen table issue; invidious discrimination in the African American community.

There is invidious discrimination in the Asian community. We have been working to try as best as we can to deal with the question of linguistics.

We have seen the signs in multiple languages, including English.

There are many who would say, well, what is wrong with that?

Well, here is what is wrong with that. If you know that you are going to communicate in English when you bind the person with the contract, why would you entice the person to come in in Spanish? If you know that you have no intentions of conducting your business in Spanish, why would you entice the person to come in with Spanish?

This is a form of perfidy. It is ill will. It is not the way people of good will treat other members of society. We respect people to the extent that we want them to understand what they are doing.

In the area of housing, we have tried, on a contract, to have language that simply says: What language would you prefer to do business in? We indicate that you do not have to complete this portion of this document if you choose not to—this is a person who is applying—and we also indicate that this is not going to be binding upon the person who has presented the contract. We are trying to show a sense of the linguistic needs that are prevalent in our society, just trying to get some sense. However, that language that we had worked and toiled to put in place has been rejected, it has been rejected, and we are trying to protect it.

I have traveled to many places in my lifetime. I have had the good fortune to travel to many other continents and many countries, and in so doing, I have always appreciated the fact that people would try to communicate with me in English. In each and every country, there were people who would assist me in English. There may have been some exceptions, but generally speaking, English.

People moving through airports in distant places can have the announcements made in English.

I have gone to hotels where the persons who work there in the hotels in foreign countries could speak multiple languages. One of them would be English.

People have catered to us across the globe. We have had the welcome mat extended to us because we are Americans and we speak English and they want to do business with us. They want to roll out the welcome mat. Unfortunately, we have not shown a similar characteristic.

It is my belief that we ought to show a level of respect to other people who come to this country. Many of them are here to do business. Many of them are here as immigrants. Many of them are here for lawful purposes, yet we do not concern ourselves with the linguistics.

We have had difficulty putting up street signs in communities that are in multiple languages. There are many people who oppose this.

When I have traveled through airports and through other countries, I have seen the signs in multiple languages, including English.

Life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny; what impacts one directly impacts all indirectly.

This discrimination must end because it not only impacts the persons who are being discriminated against—the LGBTQ, the Muslims, the people of color, the African Americans, the Latinx, the Asians—it not only impacts these people directly. It impacts all of us indirectly, because Dr. King was right then and his words of profound still ring with truth today:

I can never be all that I ought to be until you are all that you ought to be, and you can never be all that you ought to be until I am all that I ought to be.

All of this has been called to the attention of Members of this House because I believe that there is still work to do with reference to the question of impeachment.

I have said on this floor before when I spoke here last, and I say again, we cannot allow invidious discrimination to be weaponized so that people suffer to the extent that the weaponization is creating the suffering.

And it starts at the top. And because it starts at the top, this House has a duty to start at the top. We do our duty and start at the top, we will understand that just as we can impeach a President for issues related to national security, we can impeach a President for issues related to invidious discrimination.

The Republicans did it in 1868—Republicans. Some things bear repeating: Republicans impeached a President in 1868 based upon issues rooted in invidious discrimination.

We had just fought a Civil War, and those who were called freedmen—freed persons, if you will—were working with a Freedmen’s Bureau to try to acquire the same rights as others. But there was a President, Andrew Johnson, who peached him, and President Johnson against the Freedmen’s Bureau. He fought to maintain white supremacy.

But radical Republicans, radical Republicans, radical Republicans stood up to him. They impeached him, and President Johnson changed his tune, to borrow a phrase. Oh, he was still the bigoted racist of his time, but he did tone down. And he did not get reelected, by the way.

And there was a success story, Abraham Lincoln, but he did not get elected—I should not say, “reelected.” He was Vice President, and he did not get elected President.

The point is this: Radical Republicans cared enough for newly freed people—radical Republicans. They cared about invidious discrimination. We had just fought a war. They stood up.

By the way, I have an opinion that I want to share with you today:

I believe that the Republicans in this House right now would do a similar thing if a Democrat happened to occupy the White House and behaved the
way the current occupant behaves. I believe that Republicans of this time would respond the same way the Republicans of that time, in 1868, responded.

I believe that if any person in the White House today who were the title of Democrat behaved the way the current occupant behaves, that person would be impeached, and Republicans would lead the charge.

And I believe that we ought to stand for them because I know the stand alone than not stand at all. I stand for them. This is our tax of a certain hue from a certain country so that they can murder people and soil, invidious discrimination allows persons to traverse the place, that is harmful to this country.

There are those who believe that, in my opinion, our inaction today will result in future actions that would be harmful to this Nation. This is our calling. Only we can bring justice to all of these that I have called to you tonight who are being discriminated against. We can’t bring the kind of justice that is needed by ignoring the harmful discrimination that is taking place.

More than 50 percent of Americans, according to a Quinnipiac poll of just a couple of months ago, I believe, maybe 3 or 4, indicated that more than 50 percent of the people in this country believe that the President is a racist. We ignore it because it is uncomfortable. It is easier for us to take on the challenge of national security.

Well, invidious discrimination that causes white supremacists to march up and down the street screaming “blood and soil,” invidious discrimination that allows persons to traverse the country so that they can murder people of a certain hue from a certain place, that is harmful to this country.

This level of invidious discrimination should not be tolerated by this Nation. We have a responsibility to stand up for those that in this Chamber used to stand up for themselves. This is our calling. I am here tonight on behalf of all of these who I have called to your attention. I stand for them.

I may stand alone, but it is better to stand alone than not stand at all. I stand for them because I know the harm that they can and have suffered. And I believe that we ought to have at least one Article of Impeachment that deals with invidious discrimination. I believe it; I encourage it; and I support it.

I understand that we want to get back to bigotry as usual. Back to bigotry as usual when it is a talking point, not an action item, when you don’t have to vote on Articles of Impeachment that deal with bigotry. That is too hard.

I understand we want to get back to bigotry as usual, when we can say that we are for principles above politics, when we can proclaim that we do not part company above country. I understand. I want to get back to bigotry as usual. I am sorry that I am one of the implacable. But I assure you, my dear friends, I can’t let it go. I can’t. I know what the suffering is like.

I suppose it is my destiny to be here to call these things to our attention. We can ignore them. We can tolerate this bigotry. But remember this: Those who tolerate bigotry perpetuate it.

There are people and organizations that have built their reputations fighting bigotry. Yet, when there was an opportunity to vote with bigotry at the highest office in the land, well, the argument was the Senate won’t convict so why would we do it.

Well, it is the same argument for discrimination as it relates to national security, as it relates to abuse of power. The same argument, but we now put principle above politics—the same argument.

There are those who said that: Well, you know what will happen if you remove the current occupant. Well, the same argument could be made now. But it is because we have a different issue, it is not invidious discrimination.

We now can put principle above politics. We now are not concerned with who the next occupant might be. We now say that the Senate has to just do its job and that we are going to do our job.

Things have changed, and thank God they have. I am appreciative that they have changed. This is why I am calling to our attention the necessity to have an Article of Impeachment related to invidious discrimination.

There are those who believe that, in this country, invidious discrimination has become a tool, a tool to be used by political parties, a tool to be used to rally the vote, to get out the vote, to create a constituency to vote, just a tool to be used. And that tool is being managed so that the political parties can continue to play their games—a tool.

I don’t want to manage; I want to end. I do not want to see us manage invidious discrimination. I want to see us end it.

That is why I stand here tonight. Life is an inescapable network of mutualities tied to a single garment of destiny. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly.

Dr. King’s probably most famous words were: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Injustice in any community in this country is a threat to justice in every community in this country.

I love my country; I didn’t come to Congress to make this speech. I love my country; I didn’t come to Congress to impeach a President. But because I love my country, I am making this speech. And because I love my country, I have brought Articles of Impeachment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

BUILD ROBUST ECONOMY TO KEEP PROMISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, this is one of those moments where, in listening to my friend, Mr. GREEN, we are friends. We, I think, always voted against each other on most everything, but we were always civil to each other. That is sometimes hard to communicate with a lot of our brothers and sisters, our folks at home, that you can sometimes have very contentious issues that we absolutely disagree on, but it doesn’t mean that we have to be jerks to each other.

We have a family motto—I don’t know if it works for someone on the left—“conservative but not a jerk about it.” And we try very hard.

Let’s see if we can actually do something that actually is interesting and real on the math. Because our other saying is: It is about the math, and the math always, ultimately, wins.

But it doesn’t mean that we have to be jerks to each other.

When you look at the CBO data, there are some really important data points that are not Republican, not Democratic. They are math.

In the next 5 years, just the growth of Social Security, Medicare, and healthcare entitlements, just the growth, every 5 years, equals the Defense Department spending. That means, every 10 years, two full Defense Departments is just the spending growth.

We expect, over the next 10 years, 91 percent of the spending growth for your Federal Government will be Social Security, Medicare, and healthcare entitlements.

Over the next 30 years, if you remove Social Security and Medicare, we have $23 trillion in the bank. If you roll Social Security and Medicare back, in, we are $83 trillion in debt. That is not inflation-adjusted. If you inflation adjust it, it is somewhere in the 50s.
The point I am making is: Could this body ever engage, in this environment, on the real headwind that is up against our society and against all of us? We have a moral obligation to keep our commitments on those earned benefits, those entitlements, whatever you want to call it. But how do you build a robust enough economy, a vibrant enough economy, to keep our promises?

That is why we put up this slide. We have been working on this for years. We try to make an argument that if you do certain economic policies—tax policies, trade policies, immigration policies, regulatory policies—the adoption of fairly aggressive changes in technology to crash the price of healthcare— incentives for labor force participation, incentives for someone who is older—if they are healthy and choose to stay in the labor force, there are all sorts of things to do here, even down on the left about the demographics of the country on how fast we are getting older, the fact our birthrates have, in many ways, collapsed.

Now you have incentives for family formation and population stability. It is complex. You can’t offend everyone when you start saying: “We have a complex problem.” Guess what? There is not a simple, trite solution. It is complex.

Let’s talk a little bit about the good news, the proof that tax policy, particularly, can have pretty substantial effects on the society.

Last Friday, the Treasury posted up its numbers. You don’t call them revenues; you call them receipts. I was corrected on my first day on the Ways and Means Committee.

Guess what happened post-tax reform? Do you remember the apocalypse that was coming? Right here, at this microphone over here, we were told of the apocalypse that was going to happen financially to the country with the tax reform. The highest revenues in U.S. history, we had 4 percent growth in true revenues, true receipts. Inflation-adjusted, it is the second highest in U.S. history.

We had a really interesting year in 2015. There was a number of anomalies, but a very high spike in revenues. It is the second highest, inflation-adjusted, in U.S. history, 4 percent growth in receipts.

The problem is that we had about a 7-plus percent growth in spending, and you know, a year after year 2015, you know, now, to be honest, of that growth in spending, I believe over half of it was on autopilot. It was the population growth of our brothers and sisters who are baby boomers, the 74 million of us who started to move into our benefit area.

Back to my first comments, it is happening. It is just demographics.

The other part was spending decisions here where entitlements, where fix underinvestment in the military. Well, for every dollar there, you had to do certain types of social entitlement spending.

But what is interesting is if you look at the growth of the economy, particularly in 2018, almost every social program, whether it be Social Security disability, which has some other complications, and there were some policy changes, to TANF, food stamps, they are all down, which should be almost joyous.

But, once again, the chart I am showing here, I don’t know why there is not more talking about this because just a couple years ago when we did tax reform, we were told this couldn’t happen. We had lots of experts come and testify, lots of folks writing apocalyptic articles, and lots of testimony and debate here on the floor.

So for those of us who took a beating over our math—which turned out to be right—do you do good things for society if you are not allowed to have honest conversation about the math?

So, once again, let’s go back to the basics.

Do you see the red?

The first pie chart is 1960, and you see about 34 percent of our spending is what you would call being on autopilot. Today, actually now, over 70 percent of our spending is functionally formulaic. So we come to the floor, and we vote on appropriations bills. But we actually don’t vote on that red, because those are benefits you get, Madam Speaker, when you turn a certain age, when you fall under a certain income, things that are automated.

But yet look at what is happening. Take a look. If you remove Defense, think about that, so if you remove the 15 percent that is Defense, and you start to really measure spending, the 15 percent of the budget is Defense, there is only another 15 percent that is all the rest of the government: health research, the FBI, the CIA, the agencies, the Forest Service, and everything else, are actually only about 15 percent of our spending. Your government is functionally an insurance company with an army. I know that sounds a little trite, but it is sort of a little bit funny and actually quite true. So what does that mean in reality?

Well, the reality of it is back to that very first board. There is a path. It will require Democrats and Republicans to actually understand a calculator, understand the benefits of growth, and growth being moral, but growth also doing stunningly good things for Americans, and also that growth gives us a fighting chance not to break the 95 percent debt-to-GDP ratio that we are heading towards very, very soon, so understanding where this debt is coming from.

Now, why this is important is, all day long Members of Congress come behind these microphones, and we talk about all the things we want to do.

But what happens when you can’t do the things because the current promises are consuming everything?

So remember our earlier comment, if you remove Social Security, remove Medicare, and look at the 30-year window, you will have about $23 trillion in the bank. When you move Social Security and Medicare back in, then you start to see where we are at, Madam Speaker.

The goal here is to keep our promises, produce enough economic expansion, and engage in a number of technology and healthcare disruptions to make the math work.

Is that Republican or Democrat? It is neither. It is actually what is really good for our society. But it is the reality.

So let’s actually touch on just a couple of these things. I am sorry, this is my slide I had to have on this subject area. It is a little noisy, but a Democrat and I have been working on this, trying actually promote continued investment in things like diabetes. It turns out that if you can follow this noisy chart, we are modeling the projected cost of Medicare, about 30 percent of it is diabetes.

What would happen if we could actually have either a technology breakthrough on everything, helping our brothers and sisters with obesity issues to be able to grow an appetite and reactivate every cell and reconfigure somebody’s pancreas so it is producing insulin?

Those investments are worthwhile because they have such a dramatic multiplier effect. We are actually right now in our office trying to do the research of Alzheimer’s.

What would happen if we had a successful treatment for even some of the categories of dementia or even the postponement of Alzheimer’s and what it actually means?

So these are occasions where trying to build a formula, saying, okay, we already know tax policy is working in expanding the economy—and at the end we are going to talk about all the good things happening there—we already know that these trade deals, like USMCA, our model right now says it is half a point of GDP growth. You would think this body would just be giddy to get that passed, because growth is more Madam Speaker. It also really helps us have the resources to keep our promises.

How about many of the other things we work on, where if you are going to build an immigration system, do you design an immigration system that maximizes economic expansion for our society?

That is why there are so many economic modelers who are talking about moving, like the rest of the world is, toward talent-based immigration system. The beauty of it is, obviously, you don’t care about somebody’s religion or color or whom they cuddle with or all these other things, you care
about the talents they bring to our society to help us grow, because we have trillions and trillions and dollars of promises. We need the economic expansion to keep our promises.

Do you see, Madam Speaker, it is a broken record that needs to play over and over, because we live in a world of distractions and almost rage around here right now, and yet these are the types of issues that are critical. These are the types of issues we should all run on. So that is an example there.

So last bit, in the previous couple of weeks, we have come to the floor here—and we chose not to bring all the boards—but it is something that I personally struggle with. If I had come to this body a couple of years ago and said—and I hate this term, but it is the proper term—our brothers and sisters in the quartiles where they didn't finish high school, or a single individual without a college education, we would have meetings in the Joint Economic Committee where they were doing modeling, and we were functionally writing them off in society, saying these populations are going to be part of—I don't have a better term—the permanent underclass.

What has happened the last 2 years? It turns out those lowest quartiles, those three or four lowest quartiles, are the fastest-rising incomes in our society—single women, no partner at home, 2018, a 7.6 percent growth in income.

If I had stood behind this microphone a couple of years ago and said this is access to some of these things, it was going to be happening in our society. I would have gotten crazy calls saying I had lost my mind. But it happened.

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If I had stood behind this microphone a couple of years ago and said this is access to some of these things, it was going to be happening in our society. I would have gotten crazy calls saying I had lost my mind. But it happened.
For those who live in Arizona, I believe, in the last five quarters, we have had a couple of quarters where we have had the fastest-growing income in the entire country, and it is not the folks at the top.

What happens when you have a country that has more jobs than available workers? For those who follow numbers, if I had come to this room a couple of years ago and said we are going to blast beyond 63 percent labor force participation, all the models said we would be a couple of points below that and continue to fall—there are amazing things happening out there.

You would think there would be a little joy for a body that claims we care about working men and women, for a body that claims we care about those who have had a really rough previous decade. You would think there would be joy in this body.

Look at the math. Look at the fascinating things when—okay, we will get the unemployment numbers—what?—this coming Friday. Look at something that is called the U-6 data, and then start to see these fascinating numbers out there, when you get to the really broad data on how many of our friends and neighbors who have developmental issues, handicaps that have been barriers for them to participate in the workforce. They are moving into the workforce because businesses are so desperate for workers that they are making accommodations. You would think that creates a little bit of joy.

Is that Republican or Democratic? It is American. We should be joyful.

When we see the numbers of Hispanics, African Americans, women, these other populations, all of these subgroups that we love to break up our math into, all of them are record highs, tied for record highs. Why isn’t there joy?

When you look at what has happened to wages, why isn’t there joy?

The reality is that the economic expansion that is helping so many of the working men and women in this country also means your government has had the highest receipts—income—in U.S. history, blowing the wheels off of all the predictions, proving the sort of Malthusian, malcontents were wrong. Look at the math. Look at the fascinating things when—okay, we will talk tomorrow, Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2774. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Significant New Use Rules (EPA-HQ-OPPP-2017-0569; FRL-10000-69; (RIN: 2707-AB27) received October 25, 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.

2775. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Isotianil; Pesticide Tolerances (EPA-HQ-OPPP-2018-0047; FRL-10000-79) received October 25, 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.

2776. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Mindpropamid; Pesticide Tolerances (EPA-HQ-OPPP-2019-0062; FRL-9999-56) received October 25, 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.

2777. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Mandipropamid; Pesticide Tolerances (EPA-HQ-OPPP-2019-0061; FRL-10000-06) received October 25, 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.
H8594

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

October 29, 2019

Revisions to Sulfur Dioxide Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2018-0819; FRL-10001-49-Region 4] received October 25, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 866); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2787. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval and Designation of Areas; FL: Redesignation of the Hillsborough County 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide Emission Area to Attainment [EPA-R04-OAR-2018-0522; FRL-10001-35-Region 4] received October 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 866); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

[Omitted from the Record of October 28, 2019]

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. A bill to make administrative reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program to increase fairness and accuracy and protect the taxpayer from program fraud and abuse, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-262, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. MILLER, and Mr. McKINLEY):

H.R. 4905. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount excluded from gross income by reason of distributions from governmental retirement plans for health care insurance for public safety officers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 4906. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a rural health center innovation awards program and a rural health department enhancement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. VON STEIN):

H.R. 4907. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve infrastructure development in Appalachia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 4908. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount excluded from gross income by reason of distributions from governmental retirement plans for health care insurance for public safety officers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 4909. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the National Health Service Corps Rural Provider Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee):

H.R. 4910. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a national telehealth program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Miss GONZALEZ-Colón of Puerto Rico, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. Bishop of Utah, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. GALLEGPO, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. DAVEY, Mr. STEFANUK, Mr. CRIST, Mr. King of New York, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. BACON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. RADIWENGA, Mr. WALWELL of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. KIRKpatrick, Mr. KATKO, Mr. FRENKEL, Mrs. BURATY, Mr. SAHAIN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LAMALPA, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SAN NUNEZ of Georgia, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BRYER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. WILD, Mr. PETE Aguilar, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 4911. A bill to enable the admission of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. AXNE:

H.R. 4902. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Terra, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. ARBAHAM, Mr. ADEHLIOT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BRADY, Mr. FLIRSCHMANN, Mr. GAETT, Mr. GIANFORTI, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. KEVIN HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MAXWELL, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. WATKINS of Texas, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. SHIKUM, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LUFTKEMEYER, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana):

H.R. 4903. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit by abortion against an unborn child on the basis of Down syndrome; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. Lee of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FOCAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 4904. A bill to reduce spending on nuclear weapons and related defense spending and to prohibit the procurement and deployment of low-yield nuclear warheads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 4905. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a program to provide secured loans to private entities to carry out projects for the sequestration of anthropogenic carbon dioxide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 4906. A bill to provide patient protections with respect to the Section 320J loan program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. MCDAMPS, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. CASE, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 4907. A bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Budget, Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLLEG0 (for himself, Mr. COOK, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. COLL, Mr. WHET, and Mr. GILULIA):

H.R. 4908. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian tribe; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 4909. A bill to establish all of the matters required to be evaluated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in considering the costs and benefits of its proposed regulations and orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. GHANJU):

H.R. 4909. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian tribe; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 4909. A bill to establish all of the matters required to be evaluated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in considering the costs and benefits of its proposed regulations and orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. GHANJU):

H.R. 4909. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian tribe; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 4909. A bill to establish all of the matters required to be evaluated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in considering the costs and benefits of its proposed regulations and orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. GHANJU):

H.R. 4909. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian tribe; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.
H.R. 4911. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between States and Indian Tribes to improve welfare and juvenile justice systems; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 4911—A bill to prohibit the recoupment of Federal disaster and emergency assistance from individuals and households, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H. Res. 659. A resolution affirming that States should maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands and that the President should not declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands (including the Outer Continental Shelf), State lands, private lands, or lands held in trust for an Indian Tribe unless such moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOONEY (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCALZI, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. SHALALA, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H. Res. 660. A resolution directing certain committees to continue their ongoing investigations as part of the existing House of Representatives inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H. Res. 661. A resolution authorizing the Office of General Counsel of the House of Representatives to retain private counsel, either for pay or pro bono, in support of the ongoing inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach President Donald John Trump; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H. Res. 662. A resolution urging the release of information relating to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

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

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 4895—A bill to require the President to ensure that all Federal legislation consistent with Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution is enacted in accordance with the appropriate Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PETERSON:

H.R. 4895—A bill to require the President to ensure that all Federal legislation consistent with Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution is enacted in accordance with the appropriate Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WRIGHT of California:

H.R. 4895—A bill to require the President to ensure that all Federal legislation consistent with Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution is enacted in accordance with the appropriate Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 4890. A bill to provide for the general Welfare of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
H. Res. 517: Mr. Ryan and Ms. Kelly of Illinois.

H. Res. 546: Mrs. Luria, Mr. Sherman, and Mr. Phillips.

H. Res. 385: Mr. Levin of Michigan.

H. Res. 631: Mrs. Walorski.

H. Res. 633: Mr. Gooden.

H. Res. 642: Mr. Schrader, Ms. Bonamici, and Mr. Huffman.

H. Res. 649: Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Gonzalez of Texas, Mr. Espaillat, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Shalala, Ms. Mucarsel-Powell, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Ruppersberger, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mrs. Torres of California, Mr. Merks, Mr. Hurd of Texas, Mr. Pocan, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Castro of Texas.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative Curtis, or a designee, to H.R. 823, the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, from the rising of the sun until its setting, You remain the same. We find solace in your changeless faithfulness. Your mercies sustain us each hour.

Lord, do not keep silent as our lawmakers grapple with the great issues of our time. Reveal Your purposes to them, guiding them on the paths of courage and obedience. Lord, remind them that You appointed them to their work, and they are accountable to You. May they not forget that You are the Supreme Judge of the Universe, in whose presence humanity must one day stand.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

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

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

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

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

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS
Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as Democrats in the House of Representatives work to pass Speaker PELOSI’s prescription drug bill, I remind my colleagues that for any bill to become law, it must be bipartisan and President Trump must be able to sign it.

Unlike current House efforts, the Grassley-Wyden Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act fits the bill. It is bipartisan, and President Trump has endorsed it. My Republican colleagues in the other side of the aisle pointed to it—in other words, the Grassley-Wyden bill—during an Energy and Commerce Committee hearing as the only path forward to lower prescription drug prices. I welcome this support from Republicans in the House of Representatives. I yield the floor.

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

APPROPRIATIONS
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week will provide an opportunity for our Democratic colleagues to prove that their longstanding goal of impeaching the President is not—not—getting in the way of their ability to legislate. The Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader have taken pains to insist that their party’s impeachment obsession will not block important business for the American people.

Well, we are going to find out. As soon as the Senate completes the domestic funding legislation we are currently considering, we will turn back toward national defense and give Senate Democrats another chance to advance the funding for our Armed Forces, which they chose to filibuster just last month.

In other words, this week will bring a litmus test. Are Washington Democrats so consumed by impeachment that they cannot even fund our men and women in uniform? Do our service-members really need to be pawns in the Democrats’ fight with the White House?

It is hard to imagine a more basic legislative responsibility than funding the Department of Defense. We need to fund the tools and training that our men and women in uniform need to carry out their missions. We need to give our military commanders the resources to keep pace with major competitors like China, which has nearly doubled its military spending over the past decade.

In recent days, our Democratic colleagues have been publicly railing against the administration’s approach to Ukraine and the Middle East. I would note, offering much of a strategy of their own. But if they vote to block defense funding later this week, they will literally be obstructing the very funding to carry out the missions they say are so important.

The last few days have shown us especially clearly that American forces remain in harm’s way every day, and their missions do not pause just because some politicians don’t find it convenient to fund them. We owe the Pentagon the budgetary certainty it needs to maintain the readiness of our military forces and to invest in the capabilities needed to sustain our military edge into the future.

We also need to be good, reliable partners to our friends and allies.

Get this. This appropriations bill would fund $250 million in military assistance for Ukraine under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. If that sounds familiar, that would be the exact same program that Democrats are currently trying to impeach the President for allegedly slow-walking.

So welcome to Washington, where Democrats try to impeach President Trump for supposedly slow-walking aid for Ukraine and simultaneously filibuster the funding for the exact same Ukraine program in the Senate. Welcome to Washington.

I think it is safe to say that would elevate irony to a whole new art form. I hope it doesn’t come to that. I hope, instead, that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will land on the
same side when it comes to support for the men and women who keep us safe and for our vulnerable international partners who look to us for leadership.

**HEALTHCARE**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, this week, we will vote on another effort by our Democratic colleagues to undo successful Trump administration policies. In recent days, our colleagues across the aisle have forced two failed votes on similar resolutions. One would have cut taxes for the wealthiest residents in blue States at the expense of working families everywhere else. The other would have resurrected an Obama-era proposal to bury American energy under red tape.

Both of those efforts failed, but our Democratic colleagues are back at it—back to their old talking points. This time, they would like to reverse Trump administration guidance that has reduced healthcare premiums for American families and reaffirmed protections for those with preexisting conditions.

Section 1332 of ObamaCare gives States the opportunity to escape some of that law’s worst burdens. States have the opportunity to apply for waivers that allow for more types of health insurance plans and more options for consumers.

More than a dozen States have already had these waivers approved, not just red States. Democratic Governors in places like Maryland, Delaware, and Rhode Island have applied for and received these waivers. Where Governors of both parties are embracing this opportunity, good things are happening. According to one analysis, in the seven States where new waivers were implemented during the Trump administration, it seems that premiums declined—declined—by 7.5 percent.

The Trump administration guidance continues this success and gives States even more of what they asked for—even more flexibility to escape ObamaCare’s burdens and more choices for consumers and lower premiums. But, apparently, our Democratic colleagues are not foreword, and financial products. There will inevitably be ups and downs as this new industry develops, but today’s announcement is another crucial step. It is a privilege for me to stand with Kentucky farmers every step of the way. Together, we will continue charting hemp’s course well into the future.

**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.

**COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3055, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3055) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020

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Pending:

Shelby amendment No. 948, in the nature of a substitute. McConnell (for Shelby) amendment No. 950, to make a technical correction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.
Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to comment on an incident that occurred late last week on the floor of the Senate regarding temporary protected status, known as TPS, for people from Venezuela.

TPS can be provided by the President to nationals of a country when that country is experiencing violence or a catastrophe that makes returning to the country unsafe. This is a protection afforded by America under many different administrations to help those who might be in the United States when a calamity occurs in their home countries. It has often been granted for countries suffering outbreaks of war or natural disaster, which leads me to the issue of Venezuela.

Currently, the United States is working with regional partners to foster an end to a disastrous dictatorial regime still claiming power in Venezuela. I was there last year and I saw what was heartbreaking, considering that this was once a proud Latin American democracy.

People are literally starving in Venezuela. They faint in the workplace from lack of nutrition. Hospitals don’t have anticancer power or the most basic medicines. I visited a children’s hospital in Caracas, and they told me they didn’t have any antibiotics or the basic cancer drugs necessary for the children who came to the hospital.

Millions are fleeing Venezuela as refugees into neighboring countries. There is brutal political repression. Opposing the dictator, Maduro, is a virtual guarantee of house arrest or worse. Staggering government corruption and a systematic dismantling of that country’s democracy are taking place on a regular basis and resulted in election results which were incredible and not believed by anyone in the region when they were announced a few months back.

I have been supportive of this administration’s efforts to work with other nations to support the interim Presidency of Juan Guaido and provide assistance to millions of fleeing Venezuelans.

While I fear this issue has escaped President Trump’s attention, one simple step he can take is to grant temporary protected status to Venezuelans currently in the United States. Some are in the United States on work visas, but they are on temporary status. What I am asking the President to do is to give them temporary protected status so they will not have to return to Venezuela while danger still lurks.

Despite repeated requests by myself and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, President Trump has repeatedly refused. He goes to audiances in Florida and talks about confronting the Venezuelan dictatorship, then turns around and refuses to give protection to the Venezuelans in the United States who need this protection.

Ironically, while the President’s Department of State has issued travel warnings advising Americans not to visit Venezuela because of the danger, this President still will not protect Venezuelans within the United States who are afraid to return.

I have met with many of my Venezuelan constituents in my home State of Illinois, and I can tell you they are desperately worried about returning to the chaos, violence, and hopelessness of the current Venezuela.

Since the White House refuses to act, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill granting temporary protected status to Venezuelans this last July by a 272-to-158 margin. Senator Bob Menendez of New Jersey, Marco Rubio of Florida, and I have introduced a similar Senate bill, but the majority leader, Senator McConnell, refuses to bring up any bill that might not meet the approval of President Donald Trump, even a bill offered by leaders in his own political party.

Senator Menendez and I have tried to call up the House bill for passage only to face objection repeatedly from Senate Republicans.

Last week, to deflect blame from President Trump and the Senate Republicans who object to our bill, the junior Senator from Florida came to the floor with his own approach. He blocked the bipartisan House Venezuela TPS bill from passing and offered a dubious amendment, undermining TPS for others as the price for helping the Venezuelans. In other words, he said: Well, perhaps we can help Venezuelans as long as it is at the expense of others who are in similar status from other countries.

His proposal would in fact significantly weaken the entire temporary protected status, because, for example, his proposal would require congressional approval of any extension of TPS beyond the original period, and it would limit such extension to an arbitrary 18-month period.

Ultimately, the proposal from the junior Senator from Florida is using the plight of Venezuelans to basically gut the existing Temporary Protected Status Program.

We have seen folks on the other side of the aisle resort to this when it came to DACA—Republicans in the Senate tried to use vulnerable population, such as the young people who were raised in the United States and want a chance to work their way to citizenship, as bargaining chips for an anti-immigrant agenda. Once again, these Members are simply refusing to stand up to the President when he falls on these issues.

The solution, indeed, is simple. This administration should grant temporary protected status on its own to the Venezuelans but it refuses. Senate Republicans can pass the bipartisan House bill to grant Venezuelans temporary protected status, but the Senate Republicans refuse.

Let everyone be clear where the real failure to help Venezuelans actually rests.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Madam President, at the request of the Republicans on the Senate side, later today, I will be making a unanimous consent request related to the healthcare issue, which was raised by Senator McConnell earlier. I am told they are not quite ready this morning, so I am going to defer that offer until later in the day when they will be ready, and we can have a colloquy on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, even as the Senate works through a grouping of appropriations bills on the floor this week, the Republican leader has been falsely accusing Democrats of delaying the overall process. He just seems to be in a box and pulls things out of thin air.

The crux of the issue, as everybody knows, is that the Republican leadership in the Senate and on the Appropriations Committee has refused to sit down and negotiate with Democrats on bipartisan allocations to the various agencies. This has always been how we have done the appropriations bill when we have succeeded—Democrats and Republicans sitting down together and negotiating the 302(a)s and (b)s, but, here, the Republicans, without consultation of the Democrats, just unilaterally proposed taking over $12 billion from critical health programs and military families to pay for the President’s border wall—a wall President Trump promised Mexico would pay for.

Democrats, of course, are not going to proceed to a defense bill that steals from our troops to pay for a border wall the American people don’t want and aren’t supposed to pay for, but in this Republican hall of mirrors, that means Democrats are “delaying a pay raise for our troops,” as the leader charged yesterday, even though that is not true, and I believe he knows very well that the pay raise is strongly bipartisan.

The truth is simple. As the leader knows, the annual pay raise will go into effect regardless of whether we pass Defense appropriations or the NDAA.

In fact, the Department of Defense just confirmed to the Senate Democratic appropriators yesterday that the pay raise for our troops will take effect on January 1, without requiring any further legislation. The troops and their families will see a 3.1-percent pay raise in January. I know the President ties the majority leader in a box, in a knot, and he sort of flails around and denounces the pay raise for that reason but this is because he is afraid to tell President Trump what he is doing will not pass, but instead he blames Democrats—that
seems to be his won these days—but it is just totally false. It is not according to just me but according to the Department of Defense.

He even went a step further. In the Republican hall of mirrors, Democrats might be questioning military assistance for Ukraine. Can you believe the majority leader would say something like this? The comments are laughable. It was the Trump administration that delayed hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of already appropriated military assistance to Ukraine earlier this year—a fact now being investigated by the House impeachment inquiry.

The fact is, the only purported delay in the appropriations process is Republicans insisting on taking money from our military to spend on a border wall—something Democrats will not countenance. That is it.

If the Republican appropriators dropped that request and sat down with Democrats who have a history of working together, they could come to a way forward—which is the only way appropriations can proceed—I am sure we could line up the rest of the bills for the year. So let’s cut the nonsense.

Leader McCONVEY, have the honor and courage to tell President Trump that he is going to boil up the whole process again, just as he did the last time. We can roll up our sleeves and get to work if he would do just that.

We are already working on the non-controversial bills, and we could do it for the rest, if and when our Republican friends decide to meet us halfway.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, tomorrow, Senate Democrats will use a provision of the Congressional Review Act to force a vote on one of the most crucial policy questions we have faced all session—the future of healthcare protections for Americans with preexisting conditions.

The Trump administration has tried several different ways to undermine these protections and sabotage our healthcare system.

One of the most damaging efforts is this rule that gives the States the green light to use taxpayer dollars to push junk health insurance plans. These plans are hardly worth the paper they are printed on. Many don’t cover maternity care, prescription drugs, mental health, or preventive services. Many could offer insurance companies a way around the requirement to pay for your treatment if you develop a preexisting condition.

Just imagine signing up for one of these plans and then you discover that your child’s heart condition or cancer or lifesaving prescriptions drugs were not covered when you need it most? That shouldn’t be allowed to happen. Republicans and this administration are trying to allow it to happen.

As you can imagine, many insurance companies love the idea. Data from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners shows that the top three companies that issue these junk plans spend barely 40 percent of premiums on healthcare—just 40 percent. Just think about that. Republicans want to use taxpayer dollars to fund these junk plans. Is that money going toward paying for people’s healthcare? No. It is going to pad insurance company profits.

Tomorrow, the Senate will face a simple choice on whether or not to defend protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. My Republican friends can either stand with the Trump administration and use taxpayer dollars to pad profits for insurance companies or stand up for American families who struggle to afford healthcare.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. President, finally, on climate, last week, I announced a bold new plan to rapidly phase out gas-powered vehicles for clean vehicles. We need a plan of this scale and ambition to reduce one of the largest drivers of carbon emissions—transportation. While at the same time creating tens of thousands of new jobs and reinvigorating American auto manufacturing.

Predictably, the deep-pocketed special interests in Big Oil and Gas are already lining up to oppose this plan. Over the years, Big Oil and Gas have spent millions of dollars in lobbying to kill climate-friendly legislation and protect their bottom lines. A headline ran yesterday announcing: “Big Oil gears up to fight Schumer electric vehicle plan.”

Well, I have three words for Big Oil: Bring it on. Bring it on, because this fight is too important. Climate change is happening right now, and it is resulting in more severe weather, sea-level rise, and drastic changes to our agriculture.

As we speak, California is suffering from some of the worst wildfires it has ever seen. Scientists tell us that if we do not take drastic action to alter our current path, we will not be able to avoid the most damaging consequences of climate change.

Bring it on, because this plan is supported not only by the environmental community and climate action groups but by labor unions like the UAW, theibeW, the AFC—CIO, and by large automakers like Ford and GM. They all know that the future is moving toward clean cars, and we ought to get there before China and create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs right here in the United States.

Bring it on. If the special interests of Big Oil and Gas want to oppose thousands of good-paying jobs for American workers, if they want to oppose America’s leading the world in the industries of the future, if they want to oppose protecting our planet for our children and grandchildren, then, they are on the wrong side of history, and we will fight them every single step of the way.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.R. 3055

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I am delighted that the Senate is taking up four very important appropriations bills, one of them I discussed at length last week: that is, the Transportation-HUD and Appropriations bill, which I authored along with my ranking member, Senator Jack REED of Rhode Island. In forging that bill, we gathered information from 75 of our fellow Senators, who had 950 requests. We went through each of the requests very carefully, and we have built a bill that is truly bipartisan, that reflects the priorities of this body, and that I trust will be approved as part of this package later this week.

I want to take the opportunity today, as I am managing the four bills in the unavoidable absence of the full committee chairman, Senator SHEPHERD, to talk about some of the other appropriations bills that have been brought before us to tell the story.

As the Presiding Officer is well aware, the Appropriations Committee is a committee that makes a real effort to work together to put aside petty partisanship and, instead, listen to one another and work toward a common good. We make an extraordinary effort to find common ground. How I wish that could be done throughout Washington today. But the Appropriations Committee remains a bastion of common sense, of collegiality, and of working together to seek common ground. That is why we have had such success in reporting so many of the appropriations bills, and I am very proud that the T-HUD bill, as we call the transportation and housing bill, was one of those that was reported unanimously by a vote of 31 to 0.

For the next few moments, I would like to talk about another bill that had unanimous support on the committee, and that is the CJS appropriations bill—Commerce, Justice, and Science.

Let me begin by acknowledging the hard work of the chairman, Senator Moran, and the ranking member, Senator SHAHEEN, for their work in balancing the many points included in this bill. Once again, we saw the chairman and the ranking member working together as a team in a bipartisan—indeed, a nonpartisan—way in order to find common ground.

I would like to comment on a few of the provisions of the bill that I think are particularly important. First, I am encouraged that the bill continues to provide strong support for the National Sea Grant College Program, despite the administration’s desire to eliminate that program. The committee actually provided an increase of $7 million over last year’s funding level. The University of Maine Sea Grant Program is a
national leader in ocean research and, as you know, is very important to the Presiding Officer from Florida as well. (Mr. SCOTT of Florida assumed the Chair.)

Within the sea grant program, there is $2 million for critical lobster research, building on the $2 million that was included last year. The sea grant program recently announced seven research awards supported by this funding. These were awarded to Maine entities in recognition of their extraordinary expertise and research. These investments will help us to better understand how the lobster stock is reacting to changing environmental conditions and ensure that the iconic industry—indeed, one of the very symbols of the State of Maine—continues to thrive.

The problem is that we are seeing increasing warming of the Gulf of Maine. In fact, it is among the second fastest of any body of water in the world. That has brought new kinds of sea life; for example, there is an invasive green crab that has never existed in Maine waters. So we are watching the impact very carefully, particularly on our lobster industry.

I am also glad that the bill prioritizes the development of technologies to better track the right whale population. The number of right whales is problematic. While it is not as low as it was a few years ago, it is still troublesome that the population continues to be under stress.

NOAA Fisheries has targeted the Maine industry with potentially very onerous right whale regulations, despite the government's inability to adequately monitor the movement of these right whales.

We must better understand where the right whales are and where they are not. This, too, is important in terms of our warming waters. The major food supply for the right whales has moved to the north toward Canada, and that is where we are implementing the regulations we have seen—which we all deplore—have involved Canadian gear. I think that is very important to recognize.

There have also been some Canadian ship strikes. Our lobster men and women have been such careful stewards of the resource, and that has been true for generations. Lobstering is often a family business, passed on from generation to generation. The lobster men and women of Maine care deeply about our land and about ensuring that lobsters are there for generations to come. They have been extraordinary conservationists. They invented the V-notch of lobsters, the sizing to make sure that lobsters that are big and therefore more valuable are not thrown back into the gray zone, where it is in dispute whose coast of Maine that is known as the gray zone is.

We will find American and Canadian lobstermen, both in that area or close by, with our lobster men and women following strict conservation methods, such as throwing back the lobsters that are too small or the big breeder lobsters, only to see their Canadian counterparts do just the opposite. In some cases, they are undoubtedly the very lobsters that have been thrown back into the sea by our lobster men and women. So those conflicting conservation measures between American and Canadian fishery officials often do not follow strict conservation methods, have caused Mainers to grow increasingly concerned that their Canadian counterparts are threatening the sustainability of critical fishing stocks, as well as that fragile right whale population.

The bill that has been reported by the Appropriations Committee encourages NOAA to work cooperatively with State, national, and Canadian fishery officials on these important issues. I also want to express my thanks to the subcommittee for rejecting the President's proposed elimination of the Economic Development Administration, known as the EDA, and instead providing a reasonable increase. The Administration's proposal to cut the EDA funds by $24 million would have caused Maine to lose $10 million in economic development funding that was used to build the COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force, a program that has helped Maine's Drug Enforcement Agency target illegal opioid sales.

I want to finally highlight the important investments supporting the FIRST STEP Act, which we passed last year. It will help implement the goals of the new law, particularly with respect to rehabilitative programs at the Bureau of Prisons. We need to help those who have suffered from justice system mistakes, and to help our seniors.

The bill also focuses attention on an issue that I know the Presiding Officer is very aware of because of his membership on the Aging Committee, which I am privileged to chair, and that is the serious problem of financial fraud directed at our seniors. The GAO, a few years ago, estimated that our seniors lose nearly $3 billion a year to financial fraud. I think that is just the tip of the iceberg because many seniors are too embarrassed to report the theft they have suffered. It is important. It is vital that the Justice Department continue to fight financial fraud.

I am delighted that the former Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, implemented my recommendation that every U.S. attorney's office should have designated a financial fraud attorney who can bring cases and help to protect our seniors. We need to aggressively prosecute those who have cheated and defrauded, and we need to increase our efforts to collect unpaid fines and penalties imposed on them by Federal agencies. It is only our national efforts that can go after a call center that is located in India, for example, as some of them have been. While to the Justice Department, the individual amounts may seem small, they are devastating to a senior who has worked hard to save money for their retirement years. In addition, when you aggregate all those losses, they result in literally billions of dollars.

The bill also provides increased investments to law enforcement at all levels—partnerships that are especially critical to preventing the heroin and opioid epidemic that plagues my State of Maine and many others. Naming just a few, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program and the Drug and Veterans Treatment Courts are essential to the multifaceted approach we take to studying epidemics and understanding, in the first place, how to cure them.

I appreciate that the subcommittee has once again rejected cuts to the COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force, a program that has helped Maine's Drug Enforcement Agency target illegal opioid sales.

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My colleagues across the aisle would have the American public believe these waivers will “allow States to greenlight substandard, junk insurance plans.” Well, let me remind my colleagues that these plans that they deride as “junk plans” are the very same short-term, limited-duration plans that were permitted in the first 8 years of the Obama administration.

Another refrain we will hear from my Democratic colleagues is that the administration’s guidance will permit States to waive certain health benefits. I remind them that the Affordable Care Act itself permits the waiving of EHBs by States. The Trump administration guidance does not change this. Again, while the Democrats would have people believe the Republicans are destroying essential health benefits, States can already choose to waive them but, to date, have not.

Most of the States that have applied for waivers have wanted to use them to reinsurance programs in order to drive down premiums. Again, waivers give States some relief from ObamaCare’s one-size-fits-all requirements, which allows them to try out new ways to drive down prices and help individuals afford care. It is about choice. It is about empowering Americans to decide what type of coverage meets their needs.

We might not be having this conversation today if ObamaCare had lived up to the rosy promises that were made by the President. I don’t have to tell anyone that it didn’t come anywhere close to living up to those promises. ObamaCare was supposed to give Americans without health insurance access to affordable care while it preserved the health insurance of the millions of Americans who were satisfied with the plans they already had. As everyone knows, what actually happened was quite different. Millions of Americans lost their plans. Premiums went up, not down. Also, premiums and out-of-pocket costs on the exchanges were unaffordable for many people from the very first day. The average monthly premium for a family plan on the exchanges has increased by $742 over the past 4 years. That is close to the average mortgage payment in my home State of South Dakota. So it is not surprising that States would be looking for ways to help families afford care through these 1332 waivers.

Waivers are helping to lower premiums. Seven States that received waivers saw the average premiums for a benchmark silver plan drop by 7½ percent from 2018 to 2019. States are using these 1332 waivers to make health care more affordable and to reduce ObamaCare premiums less burdensome. They are not using the waivers to do anything to undermine protections for people with preexisting conditions, which is something, as I said earlier, they cannot legally do anyway.

It is worth noting that more than one Democratic Governor— not a Republican Governor but a Democratic Governor—has applied for a 1332 waiver this year. So are Democratic Senators here suggesting that these Governors want to undermine the protections for people with preexisting conditions? I don’t think so.

Numerous Americans are struggling to afford their ObamaCare premiums, and many others have been priced out of the ObamaCare market altogether. It only makes sense to give States as much flexibility as possible to address ObamaCare’s problems and expand insurance access for their residents. Yet the Democrats are so set on maximizing Washington’s control of Americans’ healthcare that they are determined to oppose any Republican flexibility even if that flexibility results in there being lower premiums for the American people.

Today’s resolution is just another example of the Democrats’ prioritizing their political ideology over the welfare of the American people, and I hope it will be defeated.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague from South Dakota’s talking about this issue before us this week, which is these 1332 waivers, and he is absolutely right. Millions of Americans are getting less expensive healthcare. Isn’t that the whole idea here, that healthcare needs to be affordable and that we need to have good, quality healthcare?

There is nothing in these waivers—by the way, many of which are going to States that have Democratic Governors—that prohibits people from getting coverage for preexisting conditions. In fact, that is the law of the land, so that these 1332 waivers cannot take away people’s rights to healthcare should they have preexisting conditions.

I think this is the sort of thing we ought to be supporting in this Chamber, that there be more affordable healthcare and healthcare for people who otherwise couldn’t afford it.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, my colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, is on the floor. We discussed earlier that we are actually legislating today. I think that it is great because we are passing spending bills. The Senate will pass four different spending bills, and she will manage all four of them. These are the omnibus bills that we have been debating on the floor. This omnibus bill has in the so-called 302(b) category, but there are some differences. We will work those out, and we will, hopefully, get those to the President for his signature. That is how this place should operate.

Mr. President, Senator COLLINS’ bill is the transportation bill. This one is
particularly important to my State of Ohio and to other States around the country that are desperate for some more funding for infrastructure.

Specifically, in her transportation bill, she deals with these bridges that need to be rebuilt. They are old, and many are dangerous. We have one in Ohio, called the Brent Spence Bridge, which is not only obsolete but has no shoulder anymore because it keeps having to be widened to accommodate the traffic. So it makes it very dangerous. We have been trying for years to get the funding for that. This bill has some funding that will help with regard to these kinds of bridges that have heavy traffic but are unsafe.

This is what we ought to be doing around here. Let's get this done. It is infrastructure. It is something we should be able to agree on as Republicans and Democrats because it is good for the people we represent. So I thank the Senator from Maine for her work on that.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. President, I am here to talk about the historic workforce needs we have in this country and, if we do the right things to respond to it, the historic workforce needs we have to bring people out of the shadows and into work by providing them with the skills they need to be able to access the jobs that are out there.

Pro-growth Federal policies, including tax reform we passed here, the tax cuts, the regulatory relief, and some of the things we have done with regard to opening up more energy resources, are helping to boost job creation, increase wages, and grow our economy. As an example, the most recent data from the Commerce Department shows that the economy grew by a healthy 2.6 percent in the first half of this year and that official unemployment is now down to 3.5 percent. That is the lowest it has been in 50 years. So the economy is moving.

To me, what is most exciting is that we are seeing solid wage growth for the first time in years. In just over the past couple of years, nonsupervisory employees, including blue-collar workers, have seen about a 6-percent increase in their wages. That is about $1.30 per hour. Think about that. After a decade—really, a decade and a half—in my home State of flat wages, which are wages that haven’t kept up with inflation, we now see real wage growth. Now, over 2 years, 6 percent at $1.30 an hour means something to the people I represent, but it will also be compounded year after year if we continue this.

This is all great news for the people I represent. They have been frustrated. They work hard, play by the rules, do the right thing, and then they can’t get ahead. Now they are starting to get ahead, and that is good. I hear from small business owners in Ohio who have been able to do a lot with the tax cuts and tax reform by creating new jobs and making new investments. Everyone has. I have literally met with dozens of small businesses around our State and have had roundtable discussions.

I have asked them specifically: What happened with regard to the tax relief? They are going. Where are we going? It is going toward better equity and better technology. Therefore, there is better productivity from workers. It is going to higher wages, and it is going to better benefits for workers.

For the last 18 months, we have seen more job openings in America than there have been people who have been looking for work. Think about that. Consistently, every month for the past 18 months, we have had more job openings out there than there have been people who have been looking for work. At no time in this century has that happened. This is precedent-setting, and it is a good thing. It is all good news, but it is not the whole story.

Part of the story is that we are still seeing a lot of individuals who are missing the benefits of this economic expansion. Why? In part, they don’t have the skills that are needed to take advantage of this economic growth. You have more jobs out there than you have people who have the right skills. Yet you have this skills gap that keeps us from being able to have the right people in the right place for the right jobs.

I hear from a lot of employers who say that companies cannot grow if they cannot find these workers. Some companies even say they are going to have to leave Ohio or leave the United States if they don’t have the workforces because a workforce, like other inputs, is very important to our having a competitive economy. So we have to solve this problem.

In Ohio and elsewhere, there are now thousands of job openings for positions for welders and machinists in factories, for medical technicians in hospitals, for computer programmers and coders in almost every sector of our economy. This morning, if you go to ohimeansjobs.com, you will see some of these jobs advertised. There are about 150,000 jobs out there. Some of these jobs that you will see are what economists call middle-skills jobs. They don’t require one to have a college degree, but they do require one to have some training and expertise after high school.

What we have to do is to close that skills gap by providing more of this training and education for these workers. The supply of skilled workers in this category—students who pursue post-high-school certificates—falls way short of the demand that is out there, and it is holding back our economy from fulfilling its potential.

In the most recent skills gap study from 2018, Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute highlighted this widening problem. As of August, there were roughly 494,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs unfilled in Ohio in 2018 and 10 years from now, 2028, with there being a potential negative impact of $2.5 trillion.

So the skills gap is already there, but, unfortunately, it is widening. If we don’t do something about it, we are going to have a lot more unfilled manufacturing jobs—good jobs with good pay.

The best known early training for these kinds of jobs is called career and technical education, or CTE. Some of you might remember it as being called vocational education. I will say that today’s vocational education is not yesterday’s. It is high technology. It is great equipment. It is providing the level of skills that young people actually need to understand what is out there in the real world and to get a job. This is a very important part of what we are doing as a country, and I see it all over Ohio.

Recently, I toured the Vantage Career Center in Van Wert, OH, where juniors and seniors in high school from more than a dozen school districts study things like carpentry, like automotive technology, like welding, like criminal justice.

A few weeks ago, I was able to speak to over 1,000 impressive CTE students here in Washington, DC, who were advocating for their program. In fact, they talked to a lot of the Representatives here in the Senate. The group is called SkillsUSA, and their rally every year is really inspiring.

These young people are eager to get this training. They want to get the training in order to get the jobs that are out there. We need to get more young people engaged in that, more parents signing off on that, and more high school counselors signing off on that.

I cofounded and cochair what is called the CTE Caucus here in the Congress. It is focused on holding up and lifting career and technical education. We have gone from two Senators to now 29 Senators in our CTE Caucus. Our goal is to increase the awareness of CTE programs generally, and make sure people know this is a good education option for them, to get more students interested in career training, and to provide the resources and the opportunities to connect these young people with skilled jobs that offer good pay and benefits. We have passed some good legislation to do that.

Last year, the President signed into law my Educating Tomorrow’s Workforce Act. That bill and the Perkins grants in the States that are currently providing $1.3 billion in funding every year for ambitious, federally funded high schools help to encourage high quality. They make sure that the CTE programs are high-performing. Yet career and technical education goes well beyond these great high school programs.

Certificate-granting, workforce-training programs post-high school are another key way to close that skills
In fact, it is probably the most important way because you can get an industry-recognized certificate that can lead directly to a job. Think of the many workforce training programs that are being offered at your local community college or at your local technical, or trade school.

For these post-high school training opportunities, we have a problem, and we have a solution. The problem is that they are expensive, and a lot of young people can't afford them. The opportunity is to allow Pell grants to be used for these kinds of training programs. Currently, we use the Pell grants to help expand access to college-level education here in America. For low-income families, their kids can go to college on Pell grants. Unfortunately, they can't use the Pell grants to take this short-term, 15-week training program and see the light at the end of the tunnel in order to get the good-paying jobs at the end of it and have a future.

The bipartisan JOBS Act, which I have cosponsored with Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, will allow us to do just that. It will allow us to do the same thing we do with college with these short-term training programs that will give you a high-quality, industry-recognized credential. Under current law, low-income students are eligible for Federal Pell grants if they attend college for an associate's degree or a belt-in degree but not if they choose to enroll in an accredited skills training program for under 15 weeks. In this economy and in this day and age, that doesn't make sense at all.

I am supportive of Pell grants for college. You should know that more than half the young people who take out Pell grants for college don't end up getting the college degrees or the certificates or anything that helps them to get those jobs. Whereas, in these short-term programs, it is more likely, based on the experience we have looked at, that they will get these certificates, and they will get those jobs.

The JOBS Act is needed right now to meet the needs out there. These kinds of workforce training programs provide students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in their future careers. They encompass the kinds of high-quality, rigorous job training programs and skills transfers to those jobs that are in demand right now, whether it is learning how to conduct HVAC installation, how to operate a factory machine—which includes, by the way, being able to program a computer that helps run that machine—or how to program computers generally, how to be a coder, how to ensure you have the skills to be in one of our great healthcare tech jobs that are open right now.

These programs teach students the practical, transferable skills that keep our economy moving. I hear about this every time I am home in Ohio. During the recent work period that just wrapped up, I held two separate roundtables—one at Brainerd Industries in Dayton, OH, and one at Talon Products in Cleveland, OH—talking about this issue with business owners, with administrators from our community colleges, with employers themselves, with workers who are on the job. Guess what. All of these groups agree that the JOBS Act is a great idea whose time has come. They all agree that the skills training programs create a path to good-paying jobs, and they want the help.

What is more, we know that a lot of business owners will help these employees, once they get that job, to be able to go back to school if they want an associate's degree, maybe even to get a master's degree, say, in engineering, to take their education to the next level.

The fact that you do a short-term training program to get a job doesn't mean you are not going to go back to college, and that might be appropriate, in some companies, for many individuals. In fact, a representative from Clark State Community College, Crystal Jones, was in attendance in Dayton, OH, said that she specifically believes a lack of Pell grant assistance for young people looking to get training certificates is a significant barrier. She said it makes it more difficult in their efforts to ensure that employers get the skilled workers they need. She said the JOBS Act will help.

Crystal is right. The JOBS Act has been endorsed by the National Skills Coalition, the Association for Career and Technical Education, the Business Roundtable, and so many other groups. We are told that it is the No. 1 priority of the Association of Community College Trustees and of the American Association of Community Colleges.

A lot of us chamber support our community colleges. They do an awesome job. Well, this is their top priority, so we should listen to them.

I am also pleased that the JOBS Act was indeed included in Trump's fiscal year 2020 budget proposal. I thank the President for that, and I thank the administration for supporting it, as I thank so many other outside stakeholders who are promoting this idea. Let's allow Pell to be used for short-term training programs that we need.

The reason this JOBS Act has such strong support is that it is the best proposal out there right now to help fill all of these gaps. It will cover programs that, at a minimum, require 150 hours and 8 weeks to complete. Alternative proposals are out there, but they severely limit the programs by requiring many more hours—220 hours, as an example, in one program.

Our community colleges in Ohio tell me that none of their short-term training programs—none of them—would qualify for that number of hours—programs like welding, precision machining, CDL programs for truck drivers, electrical trades. They all need the JOBS Act, and they need it now.

As we work to reauthorize the Higher Education Act this year, passing the JOBS Act is the top priority for Senator Kaine and me. It is also supported by Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and we strongly appreciate their support.

I hope colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join us to get this legislation enacted. It just makes too much sense not to do it.

If we make career and technical education a priority and if we enact the JOBS Act, as I have discussed today, we are going to address the No. 1 issue we are now hearing from employers all around the country, and we are going to help so many thousands of Americans have a better opportunity going forward.

We are going to help our economy at a time when we need to have this workforce there in order to have the economy continue to grow.

There is momentum in Ohio today, with businesses expanding and seeking skilled workers, but the skills gap is an impediment. We need to seize this opportunity, keep our economy moving in the right direction, and try to develop the skills to grow in the career of their choice and to fulfill their potential in life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Ohio for raising these issues about the skills gap. This is something that is very important in Minnesota, as well, and I agree with him. I think this should be a place where we could find some bipartisan agreement. So I thank him for his words today.

Mr. President, today I rise to talk about another gap that I would like to ask my colleagues for help in filling.

For many Americans, the 35-day government shutdown during the last holiday season is a distant memory. The national parks have reopened with their usual programming; airports are running normally; and Federal employees are back on the job with the back-pay they had lost through no fault of their own because of the Federal Government shutdown.

But for one group of workers, things are not back to normal. These are the low-wage workers employed by Federal contractors serving in cafeterias, providing building security, and keeping Federal buildings clean. These Federal contractors work shoulder to shoulder with Federal employees, and though they are often invisible, they play a crucial role in keeping the Federal Government working for Americans.

Thousands—potentially hundreds of thousands—of these workers at Federal facilities all across the country were not allowed to work during the Federal Government shutdown. They went without paychecks during the height of
the holiday season. They skipped Christmas gifts. They missed tuition payments. And they even, in some cases, were unable to afford the insulin they need to stay alive if they live with diabetes.

Unlike Federal employees, these employees of Federal contractors didn’t get backpay when the government re-opened. They were ready and willing to work every single day of those 35 days of the shutdown, but they couldn’t, through no fault of their own, and they paid the price. That is just not right.

Making ends meet in a low-wage job is hard enough, and making ends meet when you miss two paychecks—when those paychecks are taken away from you—is nearly impossible. Families who didn’t get the income they were expecting were forced to borrow from friends. They were forced to rely on the help of others. They had to make difficult choices, and many of them are still struggling to fill that hole that was not created by them and that they can’t dig themselves out of.

So, colleagues, I rise today to ask you to help me in righting this injustice, to be joined on the Senate floor by several of my colleagues who also have been strong advocates for these workers. Senator Brown from Ohio, Senator Van Hollen from Maryland, Senator Kaine from Virginia, among many of my colleagues, have helped to try to right this wrong. In this way, we have introduced bipartisan legislation to provide modest backpay to these workers.

The House included our backpay language in the appropriations package that is on the Senate floor today. It is in the bill that the House passed. Unfortunately, Senator McConnell’s substitute amendment strips out this critical provision that would provide backpay to Federal contract workers.

Today, what I am proposing is that we come together in a bipartisan way and that we add back the backpay language—put it back in the legislation—and we will file an amendment that would accomplish this.

I have talked with many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle here in the Senate Chamber, and I have to tell you, I have not found a single person who was willing to say—who even wants to say—that these Federal contractors don’t deserve backpay. In fact, more often than not, when I talk to my colleagues, they will say: Didn’t we take care of that?

Well, colleagues, we didn’t take care of that, and now we have an opportunity to fix this gap. We have an opportunity to do something for these Federal contract workers who are proud Federal Government employees in almost every sense of the word.

Our proposal would allow contractors to fund backpay for their employees through a well-known and often-used contracting process known as equitable adjustment.

Often people will say: Oh, Tina, this is a good idea, but it would be so difficult to accomplish this.

Well, actually, there is an existing mechanism for accomplishing exactly what we need to do here, and it is called equitable adjustment.

I have also made clear to my colleagues who have asked questions about the backpay, I am happy to work with anyone who has suggestions for what we can do to further improve this proposal. But we have been told across the board that this is a good way of accomplishing this—an equitable way, a way that would have good accountability and that it would work.

Over the last 10 months, I have been proud to stand with Federal contract employees who have been fighting for this amendment and to stand with so many others around the country.

Tragically, in July, one of our strongest voices for these workers, SEIU 32BJ President Hector Figueroa, passed away unexpectedly at age 57. Hector was an amazing advocate for workers all over this country. He knew how important this Federal contractor backpay problem, and he understood viscerally exactly what difference it would make in the lives of people who lost that income. It should not be lost forever.

Hector led janitors, food service workers, and others in their efforts to secure decent wages and better working conditions, and he played a crucial role in making sure that these workers’ voices were heard on Capitol Hill and in the White House. Hector was a source of inspiration for both workers and public officials, and I miss him as a partner in this effort.

Colleagues, recently we also lost another partner in this fight. Chairman Elijah Cummings from Maryland was a longtime champion for Baltimore workers, and he was the leader of the primary House committee on Federal workplace issues.

In March, Chair Cummings led a letter with 48 House Members saying that "we must act to ensure . . . Federal contractor employees are made whole." So I rise today to urge my colleagues that Federal contract workers should be made whole, as Chair Cummings worked so hard to accomplish.

Let’s not forget Chair Cummings’ message. Let’s not forget the passion and the work of Hector Figueroa. Let’s not forget about these workers. Let’s follow on the advocacy of these people and so many others to pass backpay for Federal contract workers and make sure that these hard-working Americans get the backpay they deserve.

I am so grateful to be joined on the floor today by several of my colleagues, including Senator Chris Van Hollen, who has been such a strong advocate for Federal Government contract workers in making sure that they do not have to pay the price for this shutdown, which happened through no fault of their own. I am very glad to be here with Senator Van Hollen today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. Van Hollen. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking our colleagues, the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. Smith, for her steadfast support for this group of Federal contract employees who were left behind, and I plan to address my remarks to that subject in one moment.

Before I do that, I just want to call on every Senator to stand up against the vicious character assassination that is taking place against patriotic Americans testifying under oath in the House.

Today we are hearing, in the House, the testimony of Lieutenant Colonel Vindman. Here is an individual who served as an officer in the U.S. Army, an infantry officer overseas, including in South Korea and Germany and a deployment to Iraq for combat operations, where he was wounded in an IED attack and awarded a Purple Heart.

Just a little while ago, the House heard sworn testimony from Ambassador William Taylor, who is currently our Acting Ambassador to Ukraine. He also served in the U.S. Army. He served in Vietnam; he served in Germany. Later, in a different capacity, he served in Baghdad as the director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office. He served in Kabul, Afghanistan, coordinating international assistance. He was selected by Secretary Pompeo to be our Acting Ambassador in Ukraine.

So we can disagree on a whole lot of things. We can also reach different conclusions based on things. I hope every Member, including, importantly, our Republican Senate colleagues, will stand up against the character assassination being launched at these witnesses who are giving testimony under oath and under penalty of perjury.

It is absolutely disgraceful—this kind of character assassination, impugning people’s motives. These are patriotic Americans.

At the very least, we should agree on that.

AMENDMENT NO. 1044

Mr. President, I also believe we should agree on this important initiative that has been brought before this body by Senator Smith to do justice and be fair to contract workers who perform a lot of thankless and often unnoticed tasks for the Federal Government but who are essential to its workings. These are cafeteria workers. These are janitors. These are the people who work in Federal offices not just in Washington, DC, but all over the country.

When we had that unnecessary and shameful 35-day government shutdown, we locked out a lot of Federal employees who were left behind, and I plan to address my remarks to that subject in one moment.

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in loan processing approvals from the FHA, but these Federal contract workers who, in many cases, are living paycheck to paycheck, went without pay for 35 days, and they never recouped that pay.

We did the right thing in this body for Federal Government employees. We recognized that the government was shut down through no fault of their own. There was nothing Federal workers did to cause the government shutdown. They wanted to be at work doing their jobs for the American people, and we recognized that. We recognized that they should not be penalized for something they had nothing to do with. We should do the same thing now for Federal contract workers. That is exactly what this measure will do.

These contract workers typically make between $450 to $650 a week. These are not people living high on the hog. These are people getting by day to day. One of them is Ms. Lila Johnson. She is from Hagerstown, MD. She worked as a cleaning services contractor for the Department of Agriculture for over 20 years. She is the primary breadwinner for her family and is helping raise her grandchildren. During the shutdown, she struggled with her rent, her car payments, and her life insurance payments on top of keeping food on the table. She lost $1,600. That may not sound like a lot to some Senators, but I can tell you it is a lot of money for someone living paycheck to paycheck, trying to meet the bills, and who is the family’s primary breadwinner.

What this bill is about is making sure Lila Johnson, and others like her, are not penalized for something they had nothing to do with, harmed by that was totally beyond their control.

I thank Senator Smith. I thank our colleagues, Senator Brown and my colleague from Maryland Senator Cardin. I also want to remember, as my colleague from Minnesota did, Elijah Cummings, who passed away recently—a great Marylander. I knew Elijah for over 20 years. He committed himself to many causes important to social justice, both for Marylanders and for every American, and this was one of them. This is one of the things that he just recognized was fundamentally unfair—people who were scraping to get by paycheck to paycheck being punished for something they had nothing to do with—wanting to show up for work, wanting to show up for work every day but being shut out and then denied their paycheck. Let’s remedy this wrong, and let’s make sure we adopt this measure.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I recognize the Senator from Virginia.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their eloquent words on behalf of the Federal contractors.

If you are a Virginia Senator, and if you are a Maryland Senator, you meet Federal contractors on any occasion all around the State. We often think of the Federal contractors as significantly located in the DC-Metro area or in Hampton Roads, but some of the small-town businesses in Virginia have significant Federal contractors. So I am very happy to join my colleagues and applaud Senator Smith’s efforts in this regard.

All Americans were affected by the unnecessary shutdown at the end of last year—people trying to go to parks to enjoy time with their families or visiting other Federal installations that were down. We saw the lines of Federal employees waiting outside of Josie Andre’s DC Central Kitchen in cold January weather. Federal employees, many in uniform, were trying to get free meals.

Some of the most affected, as my colleagues have explained, were workers who were sent to pay down per diem payments on top of keeping food on the table, rent, car payments, and insurance payments. Some of these families had to make difficult choices. Many like Lila Johnson, and others like her, who is the family’s primary breadwinner. This is something that the body did together, which I think is important. We not only got a backpay bill for Federal workers for those affected by the last shutdown, but we put in a guarantee that in any future shutdown they would get paid. Once you have done that as a guarantee, why have a shutdown? If you have guaranteed that people will be paid, why would you lock them out of their office and deprive them of the ability to serve their fellow Americans?

Hundreds of thousands of contract workers were not included in that backpay bill, and thus they have been left behind. Many of these Americans are paid on an hourly basis. They are not annual salary employees, and they do live paycheck to paycheck. When the shutdown hit, they went home without pay for weeks—5 weeks—and no word on when or whether their job would get their pay. Once you have done that as a guarantee, why have a shutdown? If you have guaranteed that people will be paid, why would you lock them out of their office and deprive them of the ability to serve their fellow Americans?

Alongside some of the stories that were coming together, I did hear tough stories about people who ended up forgoing necessary expenses. I will just read a couple to you. These are all from Virginians who are Federal contractors.

Michael, from Herndon said:

Like many of your constituents, I work as a service provider to the Federal government. My entire household income depends on serving government clients, which I am unable to do in light of the shutdown. My company is losing revenue every day and has arrived at the point where we must force employees to use vacation, leave without pay, or be furloughed. Unlike federal employees who will almost certainly receive back pay once the shutdown is resolved, my employees and I have no such reparation. I have lived in the Washington, DC area for almost 25 years and worked exclusively in serving the government industry, and this is the first time I’ve been compelled to contact my elected officials.

Bottom line: I’m struggling. My employees are struggling. Our families are struggling. Small businesses are the engine of economic growth and stability in our region and the shutdown is destroying us. Please work with all parties to reopen the government as soon as possible.

Sukumar, from Great Falls said:

I am the CEO of a small business in Virginia which is 100% focused on federal contracts. For two weeks of shutdown and no end in sight, we are nearing a point where we were losing revenue (because our people can’t work), invoices are not being paid by the government and we are facing a dire cash flow situation. This will affect our ability to make payroll needing to borrow money at higher interest rates and increase the perils of shutting down our business. Many of our furloughed employees are having a tough time paying bills and making ends meet. Some of them are contemplating a private sector career, leading to the loss of valuable talent to serve the government.

Virginia, from McLean said:

I am a federal contractor working in Washington, D.C. and a lifelong Virginia resident. I was furloughed as a result of the government shutdown, and because of my status as a contractor will not be receiving compensa tion after this is over. This is not a vacation for me, nor is it a vacation for any federal worker. . . . It’s impossible to plan for lost pay when you are unsure how much pay you might be lost. It’s impossible to amend deadlines when you aren’t sure how many projects are going to go unattended to and for how long. Many argue that federal workers should prepare themselves for the shutdown but I am a young person, this is my first job.
A Washington Post article from January detailed the struggles of many low-wage workers, including one who lives in the District, Julia, a contracted janitor for the last 27 years, most recently at the Department of Agriculture, who cares for her elderly mother with dementia. She has had to use the last of her sick days to keep money coming in. All told, she lost $1,000 in savings, went into debt, and relied on the charity of churches for fresh meals.

Again, these are people who make the life choice—they could have made other choices, but they make the life choice to serve our government, meaning serving by, of, and for the people. They did that not for grand fame or glory or riches, but they do have an expectation that they will not be gratuitously kicked around—maybe a thank-you or maybe just being treated fairly.

I think we did take a step forward when we passed the backpay bill to guarantee low-wage workers their backpay if the government is shut down, or less likely that we would shut the government down, or a firewall against a shutdown.

This would be a little step forward when we pass the backpay bill to guarantee low-wage workers their backpay if the government is shut down, or less likely that we would shut the government down, or a firewall against a shutdown.

It is not just the Federal workers who are most vulnerable and were most affected by losing their pay for weeks.

Here is the good news: The House included this provision in its appropriations bill this past summer. It is not in the appropriations bill we are now considering in the Senate.

I implore the majority leaders and all of my colleagues to do for these low-wage Federal contractors what we did for Federal employees: recognize the hardships the shutdown caused these workers and their families by including a backpay bill for Federal contractors, which is the bill we are getting ready to vote on.

This would be a little step forward and a precedent. We haven't necessarily done this in the past, but just as the guarantee of backpay for Federal employees, I believe, starts to provide a little bit of a firewall against a shutdown.

I think we should all be anti-shutdown, and having mechanisms that make it harder to shut the government down, or less likely that we would shut it down, is something we should all support.

Without us intervening and doing right by these workers, many of them will take years to recover from the financial hole the shutdown put them in. I ask my colleagues to join together and support Senator Smith and her amendment.

With that, I yield the floor.

The President doesn't understand and doesn't seem to care to understand that working people couldn't just send a letter to creditors, saying: Please excuse me this month, Mr. Landlord or Ms. Landlord, from paying rent or paying your mortgage on my behalf, and I am against this? I don't even pretend to understand it.

Senator Smith, who is still relatively new to this body, has taken a leadership role on an issue that is as important in my home state as any I can imagine this body has taken up, this fight for Federal contract workers who suffered because of President Trump's disastrous shutdown earlier this year.

When you think about this, these workers making $8, $10, and $12—I know most of my colleagues don't know anybody—well, actually, they know people who make $8, $10, and $12 an hour, they have just never actually asked them their names and talked to them about their lives to find that out.

We dress well. We have great healthcare benefits. We have good wages here, and most of the people who serve us: the cafeteria workers here, the people who come in at night when we leave and clean our offices—in this case, many of them are Federal employees, but some of them are contract employees. That simply means—go to the Cleveland airport and talk to the people who drive the carts taking people to and from airplanes, talk to the people who push the wheelchairs of people who have a little trouble getting on and off the planes. Those people don't work for United Airlines. They don't work for Cleveland Hopkins airport or Dulles or National or the airport in whatever it is called—sorry, Senator Smith—in Minneapolis—Saint Paul. They work for contractors so often, and those are the people we are talking about. Those are the people who were making $8, $10, $12 an hour. We don't pay attention to them in this body. We don't know their names. We don't speak for them too often. Senator Smith, Senator Kaine, and I are speaking for them because we know what happened to them.

I think Americans don't realize that thousands of janitors and cafeteria workers and security guards spent weeks out of work because of Trump's disastrous shutdown. They are embittered, they are betrayed, not by government, and they are paid too little to begin with, and they have no way of making up those lost hours and lost wages.

Missing a paycheck—you know, a lot of people in this country can absorb missing a paycheck if they are in the 1 percent or the 2 percent or the 5 percent or the 10 percent wealthiest people, certainly the billionaire President and his multimillionaire—except for those Cabinet members who are billionaire—California who have massive investment portfolios. But for most Americans—most Americans—missing a paycheck is a big deal.
went without paychecks. He has done nothing to fix it. It comes back to the dignity of work. All work has dignity. Dr. King said that no job is menial if it pays an adequate wage, but it also means getting to go to work every day and earning that pay.

For these contract workers, their work has dignity. If the President understood that, he would make sure they would get their paychecks. The House already passed backpay for contractors 4 months ago.

I asked my colleagues to join us on Senator Smith’s amendment because if you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work.

(Mr. CRUZ assumed the Chair).

AMENDMENT 1088

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about Amendment 1088, which I introduced with Senator Jones. The amendment is straightforward. It provides $5 million to fund Centers of Excellence at 1890 land-grant universities. This amendment—I want to underscore this—provides $5 million.

Let me tell you why I introduced this. The authorization for these Centers of Excellence was included in the 2018 farm bill. I offered it as an amendment in the Senate Agriculture Committee. It could be critical for schools like Central State, west of Columbus, in Ohio. The chairman and the ranking member of the Ag Committee supported it. The Senate majority leader supported it, as did the chair of the Ag Appropriations Subcommittee. The entire committee supported it. It passed by a voice vote.

Then we passed the farm bill and sent it to the President. We got 87 votes from this body for the farm bill. That is more than ever. I believe, any farm bill has ever passed the Senate. These centers will focus on important challenges facing the agriculture sector and its workforce.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter of support from Dr. Kent Smith, president of Langston University in Oklahoma on behalf of the Council of 1890 Presidents, be printed in the Record.

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

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC & LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES,
Washington, DC, October 29, 2019.
Hon. RICHARD SHELBY,
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.
Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Vice Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN HOEVEN,
Chairman, Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Washington, DC.
Hon. JEFF MERKLEY,
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Washington, DC.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Smith notes that they have been promised these Centers of Excellence for 30 years. The Senate needs to act, and it needs to include my amendment to right this wrong.

I remind readers that the 1890 land grants were created because many States, rather than allowing African-American students to attend the 1862 land-grant universities, decided to set up, in the name of segregation in those States, a separate system of colleges and universities.

The 1890s schools, as my colleagues know, despite providing a pathway to the middle class for generations of mostly African-American students, have been ignored or, at best, underfunded since their creation.

I have tried to figure out why my amendment is not just automatically set. Again, it was authorized by the Agriculture Committee; it passed the Senate; it was signed by the President. Why isn’t this amendment acceptable? The majority can’t be opposed because the House funded this program; the majority has cleared amendments that duplicate House money. It can’t be because my amendment is too expensive, as the majority, I am told, is willing to clear a Thune-Hoeven amendment that funds Tribal colleges—which is a good thing—at the same level as my amendment.

I have worked with the committee to find an offset for my amendment, and even though the authorization is for $10 million a year, at the committee’s urging, I have reduced it to $5 million, and still, for whatever reason, they can’t see clear to support this.

If I knew this came up for a floor vote, we would pass it overwhelmingly. I don’t know why we need to do that rather than just accept this.

I urge my colleagues to include this commonsense, fully paid-for amendment in the appropriations bill.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this isn’t part of the remarks I had planned for, but let me just surprise the Senator from Ohio and say I agree with him. We need to pass a transportation bill.

I mentioned some of the union workers he was talking to this morning, and they want Congress to function as it should, which means we pass our appropriations bills, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill that Senator from Maine is the bill manager on. We ought to do all of our appropriations bills, including keeping our commitment to our men and women in the military by passing the Defense appropriations bill.

Unfortunately, we know that politics has overwhelmed our ability to function here in Congress, and the Democrats, for some reason, decided to filibuster the Defense appropriations bill just recently.

What I worry about is this obsession with politics and dividing the Nation 12 months before the next general election, when everybody who is a registered voter will have a chance to vote for the next President of the United States. We are going to let that dominate our discussions to the failure of our ability to actually pass appropriations bills, fund the military, and fund a highway bill, which would provide much needed infrastructure development across our country, and the fast-growing States like those the President Office and I happen to come from.

So I hope that the growing sense I have that we are simply going to quit functioning a year out before the election, because of the obsession over politics and impeachments mania, does not prove to be true. But the storm clouds are on the horizon, and I am becoming increasingly convinced that, unfortunately, this is the only that Speaker Pelosi and the House Democrats care about, and our ability to actually get our work done is going to be tragically squandered.

DEATH OF ABOU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI

Mr. President, let me talk about some good news. Of course, this weekend, the world celebrated as the hunt for the leader of ISIS—the latest terror organization that has dominated the news—finally came to an end, and President Trump’s successful raid by U.S. troops that led to the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the world’s No. 1 terrorist. This, of course, is reminiscent of that effort under the Obama administration to take out Osama Bin Laden years after he led the effort to kill 3,000 Americans on 9/11 in New York and here in Washington at the Pentagon.

With the elimination of the ISIS caliphate earlier this year, it was only a matter of time before al-Baghdadi would run out of places to hide. I just want to say how much I admire and appreciate the courage and the dedication of the men and women who contributed to
this raid and who actually made it happen. This is an amazing combination of talent, training, intelligence, and cooperation with our partners in the Middle East that led to this incredible and successful effort. I am grateful to our military leaders, our intelligence professionals, and our allies who have been tirelessly working for this goal for years.

I applaud President Trump for making the difficult decision to put American interests in harm’s way. Fortunately, it did not result in any loss of life or injuries. I am told, for the troops who actually executed the raid, but let’s give credit where credit is due. Just as President Obama deserved credit for making the difficult decision to take out Osama Bin Laden, President Trump should be entitled to credit for making the difficult but important and correct decision to take out ISIS’s leader.

Because of the decisive action and flawless execution of troops on the ground, it was a great day for freedom-loving people and for all Americans that the world’s No. 1 most wanted man was brought to justice.

Coincidentally, yesterday, I was in Austin speaking to the Mortgage Bankers Association, and Admiral McRaven came on right after me. It was an amazing coincidence and a real treat for the mortgage bankers who, after I got through talking to them, got to hear from the man who led the raid that brought down Osama bin Laden in 2011. It was a remarkable moment to reflect on our Nation’s ongoing fight to eradicate terrorism and the great leaders and the great professionals who have contributed to our efforts to keep America safe.

It is important that we all remember that the fight is not yet won and that it actually may never be finally concluded. We must remain committed to working with our allies in the region and around the world to continue to eliminate terrorism wherever we can and prevent its resurgence.

As I indicated earlier, later this week, the Senate will begin voting on spending bills to fund the Department of Defense so that they can continue this fight, and it would be ironic, indeed, if our Democratic colleagues thwarted our efforts to fund the Department of Defense once again in the wake of this incredible accomplishment by those professionals.

Last month, Democrats blocked us from even considering the defense spending bill. They decided their seemingly never-ending disputes with President Trump transcend national security.

I hope this weekend’s announcement has brought this decision into some perspective. We need to quickly pass the defense spending bill to ensure that our service members and our military will not be impacted by these political games.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, on another matter, I continue to hear from my constituents back home about the number of Texans who are struggling to cover the cost of their prescription medication. We know that deductibles, particularly under the Affordable Care Act, have gotten to be very high.

As a matter of fact, it is not uncommon to hear people say that they have a deductible of $5,000 or more. The copays they have to pay for prescription drugs, strangely enough, in their deductible—the $5,000 you would have to pay under your Affordable Care Act policy—does not benefit the patient. It does not benefit the negotiated discount or rebates that the drug companies get with prescription pharmacy benefit managers. That does not flow to the consumer. Actually, consumers are being treated much worse than the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical companies are and deriving virtually no benefit.

I have heard stories. We had one particularly profound story about a woman whose son is diabetic. He became a dependent and described how purchasing his insulin affected many of his decisions, such as moving out of the house, getting a job, whether or not to marry, basically because he had to manage the high cost of the copay for the insulin that was necessary to preserve his life.

Unfortunately, as in many cases, people end up self-rationalizing their drugs to make them last longer, and that is at a great health risk to them, to skip doses or to take less or to otherwise not follow their doctor’s orders.

People are frustrated and confused. They are increasingly worried about how they and their loved ones are going to continue to cover these rising costs, and they want to know what Congress intends to do about it. I frequently tell the folks back home that the most frustrating moments in Washington, DC, are when the White House and Congress agree and when Republicans and Democrats agree that something is a problem and needs to be done, but nothing gets done. That is a hard one to explain. Everybody says yes, we need to deal with high prescription drug costs, but we don’t seem to be capable of getting things done.

I am always happy to share updates about the progress we make within our committees, such as the Finance and Judiciary Committees I serve on. Unfortunately, when it comes to getting a bill across the floor of the U.S. Senate, it has proven to be an insurmountable challenge.

We have spent a lot of time hearing from patients, healthcare providers, drugmakers, and other experts about prescription drug costs, and it is admittedly a topic, but I think a lot of the folks involved in the business sort of enjoy that black box they operate in and they are afraid of the transparency that would actually reveal who is getting the money and why it is that the savings don’t flow to consumers.

We have been looking at every stop a drug takes in route, from research and development to the shelf of your medicine cabinet. We have seen some things that are pretty alarming. There are pharmaceutical CEOs earning big bonuses, of course, as sales go up. I am not opposed to CEOs getting paid well for new lifesaving and innovative drugs, but I am if they do it at the expense of consumers. We have seen pharmacy benefit managers who negotiate backdoor rebates and drive up out-of-pocket costs. Of course, there are also pharmaceutical companies that game the system to keep off competition as long as possible.

In one of our Finance Committee hearings, I was able to ask the CEO of AbbVie about their product HUMIRA, which is the most commonly prescribed drug in America today, I believe. It is the poster child for the kind of gamesmanship that I think ought to infuriate all of us.

HUMIRA is a wonderful drug. It is used to treat arthritis and a number of other conditions, and it has been available for about 15 years. One might think that would be sufficient time to cover the patent period and that a more generic or biologic alternative might be available, which would be cheaper, much to the benefit of consumers. You would be wrong.

AbbVie currently has 136 patents and 247 applications on HUMIRA. In fact, the maze of patents on HUMIRA is so complex that there is no biosimilar available in America. This tangled network of patents makes it nearly impossible for a competitor to come into the market. To date, there are five competitors to HUMIRA in Europe—five—but not in America, not to the benefit of American consumers. All of these five competitors that sell a biosimilar alternative to HUMIRA in Europe are blocked from selling it in the United States until 2023. That is not an accident.

Again, I don’t begrudge companies that discover lifesaving and innovative drugs getting the patent for the appropriate period of time because that is where they recoup their research and development costs, and unfortunately not all of these drug discoveries turn out with a good story. But this strikes me as gamesmanship and an abuse of the system. Patents were intended to guard intellectual property and encourage researchers to pour time and resources into developing these new drugs. These drugmakers aren’t just using the patent system to protect their intellectual property; they are abusing it, to the detriment of consumers, to increase their bottom line.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bill with our colleague from Connecticut, Senator BLUMENTHAL, to take aim at this practice. The Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act disarms the so-called patent thickets to enable competitors to come to market sooner. This bill streamlines the litigation process for patients to sue in federal court to challenge these overly broad patents. It is a straightforward and commonsense approach to make it easier for consumers to get access to the drugs they need.

This legislation would help ensure that Americans can access these new, innovative drugs sooner. It would provide a new right for patients to seek equitable remedies in federal court and would also serve to bring transparency about the paying of backdoor rebates and rebates and drug companies serving their bottom line.

Our allies in Europe are working hard to find a cure for the spread of the coronavirus. It is critical that we consider the health of the American people and provide access to the widespread use of safe and effective vaccines. We need to find a way to encourage companies to quickly develop and produce vaccines. The United States does not have a vaccine at this time, and we are behind other countries in this competition.

With the need for a vaccine increasing each day, we need to do everything we can to ensure we are not behind in the global race to find one. We need to see a surge in production and access to these vaccines so that we are prepared to inoculate the American population and return to normalcy.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me and work together to take action to make sure we are not behind in finding an effective vaccine. This bill is a step in the right direction.

Let me say one final point about the health of our country. As we work together to find a vaccine for the coronavirus, we must also be aware of the threat of the opioid crisis. We have seen a growing number of fentanyl-related deaths, and it is critical that we continue to work together to address this crisis.

Just last month, I had the opportunity to testify before the Senate Finance Committee on the need for continued action to combat the opioid crisis. I am grateful to our colleagues on the committee for their commitment to addressing this issue.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to join me in our efforts to ensure that we are prepared to find a safe and effective vaccine for the coronavirus and to work together to combat the opioid crisis. Let us work together to provide access to the vaccines and to ensure that our country is prepared to return to normalcy.

Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about this important issue. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find solutions to these pressing challenges.

Mr. President, this concludes my remarks. I reserve the balance of my time for questions.
process by limiting the number of patents these companies can use so companies can spend less time in the courtroom. Competitors would be able to resolve patent issues faster and bring their drugs to market sooner. Better competition, I am convinced, means better drugs for American patients.

Our country is a leader in pharmaceutical innovation, partly because we offer robust protection for intellectual property. And that is a good thing, but we have to stop the bad actors taking advantage of those innovation protections in order to maintain their monopoly at the expense of the American people. That is exactly what the legislation I have introduced with Senator BLUMENTHAL would do. By the way, it passed unanimously out of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act doesn’t stifle innovation, it doesn’t limit patent rights, and it doesn’t cost taxpayers a dime. In fact, just the opposite is true. The Administration’s Budget Office released a cost estimate for this bill and found that it would lower spending by more than half a billion dollars over 10 years. And that is just savings to the Federal Government; there undoubtedly would be additional savings for consumers in their private health insurance.

Despite the fact that this legislation received the unanimous support of the Judiciary Committee in June, it has yet to make it to the Senate floor for a vote. As it turns out, I am informed that the minority leader, the Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, is leading the charge in blocking the Senate’s ability to consider that bill.

Our colleague the minority leader loves to say that the Senate is a legislative graveyard because we haven’t voted on a number of ultrapartisan bills passed by the House, but when it comes to blocking their bills that actually have bipartisan support—bills that could actually pass both Chambers and become law—it looks as though the minority leader has become the grave-digger-in-chief. Why he would refuse to allow a vote on a bill cosponsored by one of his own Members that would lower drug costs for patients across the country and save more than half a billion dollars over 10 years for taxpayers is beyond me. It seems like a no-brainer. Again, I am afraid that politics may have once again interfered with our Democratic colleagues’ interest in making sound public policy.

While our Democratic colleagues continue their crusade to remove the President from office, the American people’s lives aren’t getting any easier. Their lives aren’t on hold such that they could just simply wait out the politics that seems to crowd out good public policy in Washington, DC. We know that the average American’s prescription medications aren’t getting any cheaper. So I would urge our colleagues, the Senate minority leader, to quit blocking the bipartisan bill I have discussed today so that our constituents—all of our constituents—in Texas, New York, Maine, and all over the country can begin to enjoy some relief from their mounting out-of-pocket drug costs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that rather than recessing at 12:30 p.m., we recess at 12:35.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I want to associate myself with the comments that were just made by the Senator from Texas on the important issue of lowering the cost of prescription drugs. Not only the Finance Committee and the Judiciary Committee but also the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee have all reported good bills to help provide relief from the ever-escalating costs of prescription drugs.

Like the Senator from Texas, I, too, have introduced a bipartisan bill with Senator Tim KAINE to prevent the granting of new patents, in which the brand-name pharmaceutical company will wait until the last moment and then erect a thicket of new patents precisely to prevent a lower cost generic or in this case biosimilar from coming to the market.

It is a shame that apparently the minority leader is blocking bills from coming to the floor in this area despite their widespread bipartisan support, according to what the Senator from Texas has just said. This is an issue we should address. Ninety percent of our seniors take at least 1 prescription drug, and 36 percent of them take 4 or more in a month’s time, and they are particularly burdened by the high cost of prescription drugs.

I, too, have written to the manufacturer of HUMIRA, the best-selling drug in the world—a drug that brings some $18 billion in profit to AbbVie, the manufacturer. That is fine that AbbVie has been able to recoup the considerable R&D that went into what truly is a miraculous drug for people with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and some inflammatory bowel diseases, but when the patent period has expired, they should not be allowed to block a lower cost biosimilar from coming to the market. That is exactly what has happened.

AVIATION SAFETY

Mr. President, let me turn to speak on another important issue that is addressed in the Transportation Appropriations bill that is on the Senate floor right now, and that is aviation safety. I know the President’s Office has done a great deal in this area, and the CEO of Boeing is testifying on Capitol Hill today. The importance of aviation safety in light of the crashes of the two Boeing 737 MAX aircraft cannot be overstated. Last October, Lion Airlines Flight 610 crashed shortly after takeoff in Indonesia, killing all 189 passengers and crew on board. Just 5 months later, in March of this year, an Ethiopian Airlines flight crashed and killed 157 passengers and crew. It is simply unacceptable that both of those crashes involved the Boeing 737 MAX, and were likely caused because of the new system known as MCAS, as well as the pilots’ unfamiliarity with the system and a lack of training. More egregious was the fact that numerous changes that were made to MCAS sectors certification for this system had already been delegated by the FAA to Boeing. It is clear that Boeing did everything it could to avoid having to provide additional training or make pilots even aware of the MCAS system.

Like the President’s Office, I have met with some of the families of the victims of these crashes, and their pain and grief are truly heartbreaking. I am committed to ensuring that we never experience anything like this ever again.

As chairman of the T-HUD Subcommittee, I have been working with my ranking member, Senator JACK REED, to do our part in improving aviation safety. We need to ensure not only Boeing but also the FAA and any other entities that may have played a role in these crashes.

In July, our T-HUD Subcommittee held an oversight hearing of the FAA where I questioned the Deputy Administrator and the Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety on the agency’s review of the MAX aircraft, as well as the agency’s certification processes. Since that time, numerous recommendations have been issued by the National Transportation Safety Board and the Joint Authorities Technical Review, which consisted of technical experts from leading international aviation regulators.

For example, the FRA is, and remains, imperative that both Boeing and the FAA admit the mistakes made with the MAX aircraft and remedy those serious errors in order to gain the public’s trust in the aircraft again. Just today, Boeing’s CEO testified before Congress and admitted that Boeing “made mistakes and got some things wrong.” However, we have yet to hear what specific changes the FAA will require from Boeing prior to bringing the MAX back into service, and what long-term changes they will make to the aviation and aircraft certification process.

Ranking Member JACK REED and I continue to send letters and inquiries to the FAA for additional information regarding the agency’s Organization Designation Authorization Program, or the ODA Program, as well as statements made by FAA officials at our July hearing, which appeared to be incomplete at best and possibly outright wrong. We need to make sure the FAA is a check on the delegation process—a true check—and is not captured by the industry that it regulates. Safety has to
be the No. 1 priority for FAA—way ahead of making sure that manufacturers can meet their deadlines for aircraft delivery. Safety has to come first.

As a result of the work we conducted on our T-HUD Subcommittee and our oversight hearing, Ranking Member REED and I have provided increased funding for aviation safety and aircraft certification activities. The need for additional staffing has been confirmed by the Joint Authorities Technical Review report, which determined that FAA’s certification office for Boeing had inadequate staff involved in the MAX certification program.

In addition, the Joint Authorities found that FAA needs to expand its staffing for human factors and human system integration work as it relates to aircraft certification. In other words, if there is a new system, we cannot allow training on that system to be bypassed and mention of that system to not be included in the manuals that accompany the aircraft. Pilots have to know, going into that cockpit, exactly what could happen, and they need training on simulators.

Clearly, a lot of work needs to be done on this issue. I believe we have taken some important first steps in the T-HUD bill that is before us. I yield the floor.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and assembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

COMMERCe, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, DIPLOMACY, DIPLOMATIC SECURITY, NATIONAL SECURITY, MILITARY, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

RADIO WAVES

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I want to talk for a few minutes about money, 5G, and radio waves.

A radio wave is nothing more than electromagnetic radiation that moves through the air. That is all a radio wave is. Imagine a pond, and think of a radio wave as a ripple, or wave, in that pond. The wave kind of goes like this. It has a peak and a valley and then a peak and a valley. Eventually, it gets shorter and shorter. That is what a radio wave is. There are different kinds of radio waves. I don’t know how many, but there are a bunch, and they are differentiated by the lengths of the peaks and the valleys.

Remember? The radio wave is doing this. As it goes to the top and comes to the bottom, that is called a cycle.

Frequency—you have heard that term before—is nothing more than how many cycles a radio wave goes through in one second. So we have out there—we can’t see them, for they are invisible—thousands, millions of these radio waves that are, once again, going like this.

Now, what does that have to do with 5G? So 5G is nothing more than a certain type of radio wave. I will come back and talk a little bit about the 5G in a second.

When I make a cell phone call to the President, my voice is being converted into an electrical signal, as she knows. It is being sent to her through a radio wave. Once it gets my signal carried by the radio wave, her telephone converts it back into my voice. That is all a cell phone is.

I say: Hello, Madam President. My voice is then converted into an electrical signal that is sent by a radio wave to her telephone. That is how a cell phone works.

What is 5G? "5G" stands for “fifth-generation wireless technology.”

The very word "5G" is that it is an incredibly fast radio wave that can carry a huge amount of data. I mean, it is lightning fast. Even if you have fourth generation, it is 10-times faster than anything we have right now. Fifth generation’s waves are going to be 10-times faster and will carry way more data, way more information. It is going to change the world, not just the United States of America. It is going to change the world. It is going to change space.

You have heard about the Internet of Things. 5G is going to be able to hook up all kinds of devices that will be able to talk to each other simultaneously.

Once we get 5G in America, I will be able to open my garage door from a half a mile away. The Presiding Officer will be able to set the timer on her coffee pot from here in the Senate if she wants to. Surgeons will be able to conduct surgeries simple and of miles away from each other through the internet. We will have driverless cars. Do any of you ever get money out of an ATM? They are going to be gone. We will not need ATMs anymore. You will be able to get the money through a smartphone. Through 5G technology, farmers will be informed well in advance of when there are diseases encroaching upon their crops. We will not have to sign our names anymore. 5G will make people see what are called personal heat signatures. It is going to change the world.

Remember, 5G is just a radio wave. Who owns that radio wave and the air that it goes through? The people of America, that is what 5G is. The FCC says: If you will just give us those radio waves, we will auction them off, and the foreign companies have said: If you will just give us those radio waves, we will auction them off for you, and we will do it a lot faster than you can.

When I first read about this, I said: Am I reading this right? The FCC has held over 100 auctions. They have brought in $123 billion. We have these radio waves for 5G that the experts say are worth $60 billion, and instead of auctioning them off and letting everyone fairly compete, these three foreign corporations want the FCC to give them the airwaves and let them auction them off, and the foreign companies get to keep the money. I am astounded. I said: Gosh, I couldn’t ask for something like that with a straight face.

But do you know what is even more incredible? The FCC is thinking about doing it. They are thinking about doing it. They are thinking about taking $50 billion that belongs to the American people and just giving it to this alliance of companies—two from Luxembourg and one from Canada—and saying “Here. It is yours. Go auction it.
off’ even though they have never conducted a spectrum auction in their lives. Do you know how much $60 billion is? I did the math. And our FCC is thinking about doing it.

What I find really incredible is that the 30 foreign companies said, ‘We issued this Executive order—well, he did it a little while ago—buy American and hire American.’ I was so proud when I saw this Executive order—buy American and hire American. It doesn’t mean we don’t love our world’s neighbors, but America first. I am so proud of our FCC thinking about doing it. They are thinking about giving our spectrum to three foreign companies and letting them keep the $60 billion. Talk about swampy.

These are also foreign companies. Now, I don’t mean that in a pejorative sense, and I love Luxembourg, and I love Canada. They had a French company in here too. The French company has bowed out, at least for a while. But our job is not to maximize profits for foreign corporations; our job is to help our people.

This 5G has national security implications. Before we give away those 5G airwaves to a foreign corporation, we need to know whom they are going to give it to. Did they give it to China? What if they say ‘Well, we will conduct our own auction’ and they give it to Huawei?

There is another reason that this whole approach is foolhardy. 5G is going to be for the cities. That is where it is going first. But what about the people who don’t live in the city? What would you like to see us do and I am encouraging the FCC to do is to hold a public auction, take some of that $60 billion that belongs to the people of America to two companies in Luxembourg and one other one in Canada. It is wrong.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I am going to speak on another matter in just a moment, but I want to thank my friend the Senator from Louisiana.

There are a number of subjects that are debated on this floor that I may know a little bit about, may not know much at all about, but on the subject he was speaking, the question of spectrum and the challenges and the threats around 5G—I can still claim this—I am proud of the fact that I spent a longer time in business than I have in politics. My whole career was spent in the business of mobile communications, wireless communications. I spent the last 3 or 4 years on the Intelligence Committee in a bipartisan way looking at both the challenge and the opportunity in 5G, and let me assure you that some of the items the Senator from Louisiana—the issue is—Democrat, Republican, and Independent—when am I going to get broadband in an accessible way?

If we don’t make sure that we think this through on spectrum and recognize the national security implications and recognize that if we roll out 5G and leave, in my State, 18 percent of the population behind who doesn’t even have broadband, their ability to compete in the 21st century is going to be dramatically undermined.

So I hope I will have a chance to visit with my friend the Senator from Louisiana and see if we might be able to work together on some of these issues.

For a while, at least before the FCC auctioned off that spectrum, it was left in other hands, and suffice it to say that I know how much that spectrum is worth.

I thank my friend the Senator from Louisiana for his comments.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RELATING TO "STATE RELIEF AND EMPOWERMENT WAIVERS".

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I will turn to a different matter.

I move to proceed to Calendar No. 278, S.J. Res. 52.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 278, S.J. Res. 52, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to “State Relief and Empowerment Waivers”. Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the motion?

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution.
The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 52) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to “State Relief and Empowerment Waivers”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 10 hours of debate equally divided between the proponents and opponents.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

(remarks of Mr. INHOFE pertaining to the introduction of [S. 2731] are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. INHOFE. With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

AMERICAN MINERS ACT

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I want to first say thank you to my colleagues Senator WARNER and Senator CASEY for joining me on the floor today and Senator JONES, Senator BROWN, Senator KAINE, and the Presiding Officer for standing with all of us to protect the coal miners.

When coal companies go bankrupt, coal miners’ benefits are the bottom of the pile. That is why we are here today to introduce the American Miners Act amendment to the appropriations minibus to protect coal miners’ pensions and healthcare.

At this time, I yield my time to my good friend from Virginia, Senator WARNER, and I will come back later.

Senator WARNER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, first of all, I have done this a number of times but now you care. I know my colleague from Pennsylvania cares, but nobody has kept this issue alive more often and more consistently than JOE MANCHIN from West Virginia.

I am only going to take a minute or two, then I have to step off. I appreciate our leader on this issue giving me a little time.

In a few minutes, he will point out that last night, we had another coal company go bankrupt, Murray Energy. That potentially leaves 70,000 folks without a pension.

In Virginia, we have about 7,000 miners who are dependent upon UMWA funds for their healthcare retirements. Another company, Westmoreland Coal, has already gone bankrupt, where literally folks are weeks away from losing their benefits.

The truth is, this issue may not affect everybody across the country, but the people it does affect, it affects in a way that oftentimes undermines widows and their very ability to maintain their livelihoods.

Our country made a commitment back in 1947 to honor miners, and we would stand by that work. We are now going to be put to the test. My hope would be that this Miners’ Act amendment would be included in the appropriations bill. I will do everything I can in my power to urge my colleagues to consider the funds that are in excess of the amounts needed to meet the existing obligations under the Abandoned Mine Land fund.

So you know what AML is—the Abandoned Mine Land fund—for every ton of coal that is mined, there is a certain percentage of that put aside to take care of the reclamation that is going to be done if it is abandoned so we don’t leave the environment in a horrible shape, and that is what we work towards.

This fund has some excess funds. We are still meeting those obligations. We are using those excess funds to try to prevent this insolvency. It also raises the cap on these fund transfers from $400 million a year to $750 million to make sure that the pension plan has sufficient future funding also. The funding for coal miners’ pensions is already there. It is already there. This is the product that they have worked and developed and basically extracted. So we are working in the realm of what their livelihood has been—and it is exactly what our amendment will do—it will reallocate those funds that they worked for.

This body that receives a paycheck, which is over 10.6 million hard-working men and women, they take home less wages and instead invest their pensions. As I was telling you, they invest into these multiemployer pension funds, and they take money out, and they expect it to be there.

When it is not and the bankruptcy courts allow them to walk away, the miners and the workers are put on the back burner, and that has got to change. When workers expect that they are going to be there when they retire as they were promised and it evaporates, there is no answer. It is all in bankruptcy. Because of the bankruptcy, they are told that they are sorry they lost all the money they have invested. It is not their fault. They gave the company everything they had.

Under the current law, workers’ pensions are not protected, and executive and investment firms exploit the code to minimize the money going into pensions. If you have never read anything about bankruptcy, read one case, Sears & Roebuck. If you want to find out the unraveling of America and what happens to 250,000 workers that gave their life to this company and how basically investors came in and basically investors came in and took advantage of every person’s pension plan, that is the one case you want to read, Sears & Roebuck.

That is why I am here today to introduce the American Miners Act as an amendment to the appropriations minibus the Senate is voting on this week because it is imperative that we do it now. We cannot wait.
Since the majority leader won’t allow the American Miners Act to come to the floor for a vote, which is his prerogative, my colleagues and I are here today to introduce the American Miners Act as an amendment to the appropriations minibus that the Senate is planning to pass this week.

If we include the American Miners Act in the minibus, we would protect coal miners’ pensions now before it is too late, and we will protect other pensions from starting to unravel and the snowball effect. We will also protect the PBGC, which is a guarantee from the Federal Government. If not, all of this is going to come into fruition, which will be horrible for the workers of America, the most important of the economy in this country, and a lot of people will be hurt by that.

These coal miners and their families deserve peace of mind knowing that the pension they paid into paycheck after paycheck is secure. There are so many pension plans that are facing financial problems. The average check of a miner’s retirement. Most of that is retired miners’ widows. They have passed on from the hard work they did. The widows are still there trying to manage what they have, which was at times left. It is just a stifling of what they need, and to take this away will be very detrimental to their lives, the quality of their lives, and the family.

We can give them that peace of mind today by, in a bipartisan way, doing the right thing for the people that made America, the working men and women, and especially the coal miners. They get up every day, they go to work, and they produce the energy.

And I will say this: When you think about a coal miner and what they have given and the families that committed and dedicated to live their lives in these coal communities, they basically never had the heavy lifting. They mined the coal. They built the factories that built the middle class. They have been there every step of the way from this great country of the United States of America to become the superpower of the world, and we owe them at least to give them the money back they paid into it.

It is not your taxpayer money but the money they paid into it. Don’t let someone steal it. Wall Street doesn’t have a right to that money, but they have taken it as if it was their own little treasure chest. It is just wrong.

We are introducing this amendment, and we hope that we have bipartisan support. We would appreciate it very much. I appreciate my dear friend from Pennsylvania, who has the same hardworking people.

It doesn’t matter where your State is. If you have good, hard-working coal miners and they and their families have sacrificed for this country, they need a Senator such as Senator CASEY. With that, I yield the floor.

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

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I commend and salute the work of Senator MANCHIN, the senior Senator from West Virginia, and the work of Senator SCOTT and Chairman Risch and Chairman Grijalva, we are here today to introduce the American Miners Act of 2019 and the Miners Pension Protection Act were voted out of the Natural Resources Committee last week by a voice vote.

Now, there is another bill that deals with the pensions. More generally, the Butch Lewis Act. Now, the House passed the Butch Lewis Pension Act— I am adding the word “Pension” into it. It is called the Butch Lewis Act. The House passed that 3 months ago, and the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has chosen not to have a vote on that bill. I don’t understand that. I am not sure that there are many people that do, but I would hope—I would hope—that he would reconsider and have a vote on the Butch Lewis Act.

We should also have a vote on the American Miners Act, the legislation that Senator MANCHIN has worked so hard on. We know that in the House, as well, a bipartisan effort led by Chairman RISCH and Chairman SCOTT, we know that the Health Benefits for Miners Act of 2019 and the Miners Pension Protection Act were voted out of the Natural Resources Committee last week by a voice vote.

All you have got to do is put your hand up and say, “I support that bill,” or “I support that amendment.” It is not hard to do. It doesn’t take a lot of floor time to either have to have these matters considered.

Now, what are we facing today? The bankruptcy filing of Murray Energy, which stems largely from competition from cheaper alternatives like natural gas and decline in demand. This would bring the pension and healthcare coverage for our coal miners to the very brink and to result in us not keeping our promise. Failure to act could result in devastating consequences for these coal miners in communities across Pennsylvania and West Virginia. We heard from the senior Senator from Virginia, Senator WARNER, and indeed all across the country.

We produce, in a few counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, the hard coal, anthracite coal. The great novel of Stephen Crane came to that region in the 1890s. He would go on to become famous for writing, “The Red Badge of Courage.” But Stephen Crane, when he was a young man—and he never made it to his 30th birthday, so he was an accomplished writer even as a young man—he wrote an essay about a coal mine in Scranton, my hometown in Lackawanna County.

In that essay, he described going into a coal mine and what he saw. At one point in the essay, he said that the miners were in a burning darkness, a soundless place of tangible loneliness. Then he went on to describe what the coal miners did—what really the children were doing, little boys in the mine and men in the mine. Then, at the end of the essay, he listed all the ways a miner could die in those mines in the 1890s.

Now, I know we made progress over the generations and over the decades, but even in modern times, coal mining has been very dangerous and very difficult work, work that I can’t even begin to imagine. I never had to do it, but my ancestors did. These miners not only worked in those dangerous conditions and not only put their lives on the line to do that work, but they also did it with a sense of keeping their promise.

They made a promise to their employer that they would work hard every day, and they kept that promise. They made a promise to their families that they would work hard to provide a living for their families—in some cases, provide a living for several generations of their families—and they kept that promise. They made a promise to their country to serve in war all the way from World War I and all the way to our most recent conflicts. A lot of them died in Vietnam. A lot of them died in battlefields all over the world, in World War II and other conflicts.

They kept their promise to their country. They kept their promise to their family and to their employer. All they have asked of us is to keep our promise. It is not hard to do it either. All you have got to do is put your hand up and say, “I support that bill,” or “I support that amendment.” It is not hard to do. It doesn’t take a lot of floor time to either have to have these matters considered.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, first of all, I thank Senator CASEY because he comes from the same coal mining regions that I come from and the workers and families and communities they have there. It is unbelievable the commitment and dedication these people have had their entire life.
and the patriotism they have. Most of them have served. Most of them have been there. Most of them will always be there.

In 1946, this promise was consummated by Congress and the President of the United States, and they have said, up until that time there—my grandfather and all my family members working the mines—they had nothing. So if you ever heard that song, "Land of my soul to the company store," they really did. There was never any money that transferred. They had scrip, and by the time they buy everything from the company store, their pay basically was eaten up. There was nothing left.

In 1946, they said there has got to be more, and that is when it came in. Truman was determined not to let this country fall into a recession or a depression after the war by keeping the mines working because we needed the energy for that. They have produced this energy in a patriotic way every time. If we can't even keep our promise to them through an act of Congress, then God help us all. That is what we are here for.

We implore all of our friends—the Senator from Wyoming is here now, and he comes from a coal mining region. We are asking everyone just to help us do the right thing for the working people who built this country. That is what our request is, and it has to be done this week; if not, I guarantee you this problem is going to grow much larger much quicker and more than anybody wants to bite off and chew. I ask all my colleagues to please help us get this miners act to the floor. We can take care of this pension and keep other pensions from tumbling behind.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to once again discuss healthcare in America and, specifically, to oppose S.J. Res. 52, which is the latest congressional disapproval resolution.

What is happening here is that the Democrats are trying to block the efforts Republicans are making to actually lower the cost of health insurance. We are working on ways to lower the cost of health insurance for American families, and the Democrats are trying to block it.

Let me explain. People certainly understand that after the Obama healthcare law was passed, healthcare insurance premiums all across the country went up. I strongly oppose the passage of this resolution, and I strongly oppose the passage of this law, which many of the Democrats running for President are now willing to admit has failed.

It is interesting that the Democrats now just say: Scrap the whole thing, and go with a one-size-fits-all, government-run healthcare program in which people will pay more to wait longer for worse care.

Ironically, it is the Republicans who, today, are delivering on so many of the Democrats' empty promises about ObamaCare because Republicans are actually doing things to lower the cost of care and the cost of health insurance for American families.

I like to think of Republicans as EMTs arriving on the scene of the ObamaCare train wreck. We didn't cause the accident. We are trying to help the victims live in states all across this country. For nearly 3 years, Republicans have tried to treat the victims of ObamaCare and tried to help people who have been hit by skyrocketing health insurance premiums.

Last week we saw a major breakthrough. For the second year in a row, on average, we saw insurance premiums on the ObamaCare exchanges actually come down. They have actually come down. They have actually come down. They have actually come down. They have actually come down. They have actually come down.

To put the cost into perspective, this total dollar figure has been estimated by people on the Republican side of the aisle, the Democratic side of the aisle, folks who looked at what premiums are being made, and all have come to the conclusion that the cost will be greater than what we spend right now in this country on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security combined. Add it all up, and it does not even reach the point of whether the Hurricane Maria and the Elizabeth Warren Medicare, for All plan would cost.

Interestingly, when taking a look at the proposal, they actually want to take away from the American people—this Administration has already negotiated health insurance through work—they want to take that away from 180 million Americans and put them all on a one-size-fits-all, government-run program. Even union workers, who, as part of their contract negotiations, negotiated the health insurance they want, would lose their hard-fought healthcare benefits if it were ever to become law.

We see Democrats backing what I believe is a very foolish resolution of disapproval. They are attacking part of President Obama's healthcare law. We are talking about ObamaCare section 1332. This section of the law helps give more flexibility to states. It permits states to waive Public Health Service Act requirements as guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, and the prohibition on pre-existing condition exclusions. Furthermore, a section 1332 waiver cannot be approved unless the state demonstrates that it can improve access to affordable care and that the waiver will result in lower costs for patients around the country.

To be very clear, the 2018 guidance does nothing to erode the PPACA's pre-existing condition provisions, which cannot be waived under section 1332. Section 1332 does not permit states to waive Public Health Service Act requirements such as guaranteed availability and renewability of health insurance, the prohibition on using health status to vary premiums, and the prohibition on pre-existing condition exclusions. Furthermore, a section 1332 waiver cannot be approved unless the state demonstrates that it can improve access to affordable care and that the waiver will result in lower costs for patients around the country.

Under the PPACA, we have seen dramatically higher premiums and decreased options for millions of consumers, in large part due to the law's overly prescriptive mandates and excessive Federal government takeover of areas traditionally under state oversight. In 2019, the average monthly premium for a couple Kaiser Plan in Nebraska was $578. On October 29th, HealthCare.gov is now over $1,500, which can easily exceed a family's mortgage. There are many areas of the country with far higher premiums. For example, a 65-year-old couple living in Grand Island, Nebraska, making $70,000 a year, will need to pay over $3,000 per month for the lowest cost silver plan available. That's almost $38,000 per year for a plan with an 11,100 deductible. That's over half their income.
Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, the letter proves that all patients will be protected. Section 1332 simply gives States some leeway—a little wiggle room—a little flexibility on how to use and apply the law best in their own States.

All State waivers must meet the following conditions: They must provide coverage at least as broad as is currently offered under the healthcare law; they must provide coverage and cost-sharing at least as affordable as under the healthcare law; they must provide coverage to at least as many people as under the healthcare law; and they must not increase the Federal deficit.

The section 1332 waivers leave protections for preexisting conditions unharmed. They are not just popular with Republican Governors. It is interesting to see that applying for these 1332 waivers are Democratic Governors from around the country. They are at odds with what the Democrats in the Senate are trying to do. They are pursuing waivers. They are asking the Trump administration for waivers for their States as well. Why would these Democratic Governors come to the Trump administration and ask for waivers? It is because they work. The reason the Democratic Governors are coming to the Trump administration asking for waivers is that they work. In fact, a number of States are using these waivers today to help lower the cost of health insurance.

Let’s look at the States whose section 1332 waiver was approved since the Trump administration guidance was issued. Let’s look at just the States that have applied for waivers since the new Trump administration guidance was issued. Again, these waivers were approved using the very same guidance that the Democrats in the Senate now want to have repealed. It is astonishing. The States with 1332 waivers since the Trump administration came out with its guidance are Colorado, North Dakota, and Rhode Island. Nearly all have Democratic Governors—four out of the five do—and have Democratic Senators in many cases or they have Democratic Governors. It is interesting to see that applying for 1332 waivers are Democratic Governors from around the country. They are at odds with what the Democrats in the Senate are trying to do. They are pursuing waivers. They are asking the Trump administration for waivers for their States as well. Why would these Democratic Governors come to the Trump administration and ask for waivers? It is because they work. The reason the Democratic Governors are coming to the Trump administration asking for waivers is that they work. In fact, a number of States are using these waivers today to help lower the cost of health insurance.

The Obama healthcare law was a train wreck. Republicans opposed it all the way. We are still treating the victims of this wreck, and we want to help the other victims of the Obamacare train wreck. By changing and coming out with guidance that will make it easier and give flexibility to the States, whether their legislature is Republican or Democratic, to help lower the high cost of Obamacare insurance. I find it outrageous that Senate Democrats are wasting precious healthcare debate time. They should be working with us to find solutions to lower the cost of care, to lower the cost of prescription drugs, to provide more accountability and more transparency of prescription drugs, to provide more accountability and more transparency of prescription drugs. That is what we are asking for.

Tak a look at what has happened for the proposed premiums for 2020, what they are expected to be States under the leadership of Democratic Governors who have asked for and have been granted waivers from the Trump administration and what the impact is for the same insurance premiums in these States. In Colorado, with a Democratic Governor and one Democratic Senator, the rates are going to fall this next year by about 16 percent. In Delaware, with a Democratic Governor and two Democratic Senators, the rates will fall about 13 percent. In Montana, with one Democratic Governor and one Democratic Senator, one Republican Senator, and one Republican Governor, the rates will go down. Yet Democratic Senators on the other side of the aisle are offering a resolution to remove these waivers, to remove the guidance from the Trump administration that is resulting in rates of insurance and the costs going down.

Of course we need to fix healthcare in this country, but we need to take a scalpel to our healthcare problems, not a meat cleaver, which is what we see the other side of the aisle doing. The Obama healthcare law was a train wreck. Republicans opposed it all the way. We are still treating the victims of this wreck, and we want to help the other victims of the Obamacare train wreck. By changing and coming out with guidance that will make it easier and give flexibility to the States, whether their legislature is Republican or Democratic, to help lower the high cost of Obamacare insurance. I find it outrageous that Senate Democrats are wasting precious healthcare debate time. They should be working with us to find solutions to lower the cost of care, to lower the cost of prescription drugs, to provide more accountability and more transparency of prescription drugs. That is what we are asking for.

Let’s keep working to give patients what they need, which is the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. SHUMACKER. Madam President, I rise today to address one of the biggest concerns facing everyday families in Arizona: making healthcare more affordable and maintaining critical health care protections.

Sometimes the issues discussed on the Senate floor appear far removed from the concerns of everyday Americans, but not today. Today’s debate focuses the Senate’s attention on the most important issue facing Arizona families and voters elected officials the opportunity to reject partisan political games in favor of commonsense solutions.

For millions of Americans, coverage this expensive is not a realistic option, and many choose to go without coverage at all. In fact, average premiums rose by 21 percent, 13 million people gained insurance coverage from the market in 2017 last year the prior administration oversaw open enrollment. While these higher premiums force some people to go uninsured, coverage is generally not optional for people with a pre-existing condition and so, without a subsidy, someone with a pre-existing condition must face the full burden of the PPACA’s skyhigh premiums. This Administration has not forgotten the people facing this hardship.

Section 1332 of the PPACA provides the discretion to approve a section 1332 state waiver plan if the following four statutory guardrails are met: affordability, comprehensiveness, coverage, and federal budget neutrality. Section 1332 allows states to develop new healthcare programs and solutions that would not be permissible without a section 1332 waiver.

Unfortunately, guidance issued under the prior Administration in December 2015 (the 2015 guidance) regarding section 1332 waivers had the unintended effect of restricting the innovation states could pursue. The prior Administration imposed a one-size-fits-all approach to these waivers, making it difficult for states to address the specific needs of their residents.

In October, the Administration issued guidance under section 1332 of the PPACA to provide the discretion, the significant opportunity, to chart a different course for their markets through expanded flexibility. Section 1332 and the 2016 guidance ensure that consumers who want marketplace insurance similar to what provided under the PPACA can do so, but they empower states to take steps to stabilize their markets and allow more affordable options that may be more attractive to individuals and families priced out of the current market, including people with pre-existing conditions.

Over the past two years, this Administration has approved seven section 1332 waivers authorizing reinsurance programs to help fund claims for people with high healthcare costs. These reinsurance programs provide much needed premium relief for people in the market and, in particular, for people with pre-existing conditions without other coverage options. These section 1332 waivers were all approved under the prior, more restrictive 2015 guidance. I believe, given the expanded guidance discussed in the 2016 guidance, states will be able to develop additional healthcare programs and solutions that work for their residents.

As you know, some have criticized the state flexibility offered under the 2016 guidance, claiming that states will pursue section 1332 waivers that undermine their own individual market pools and make coverage more expensive for their residents with pre-existing conditions. Again, I want to make clear that a section 1332 waiver cannot undo the protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Moreover, any section 1332 waiver will need to carefully account for any impact on the individual market risk pool and ensure that access to coverage is at least as comprehensive and affordable as would exist without the waiver.

So, if a state seeks to pursue the use of more affordable options, such as catastrophic plans or short-term limited duration plans, under a section 1332 state waiver plan, it ensures access to coverage that is overall as affordable and comprehensive for people who remain in the individual market risk pool.

Thank you again for your shared interest in bringing down healthcare costs and protecting our fellow Americans with pre-existing conditions. We remain focused on improving our nation’s health care system by empowering states to innovate and develop new solutions to expand access to affordable and high value coverage options, and we look forward to working with you to achieve these goals. Should you have questions, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.
Not long ago, insurance companies were allowed to deny care or overcharge Americans based on the fact that those Americans had been sick before or had been born with a chronic condition.

Arizona families that had been previously treated for skin cancer or diabetes were told that no insurance company would cover them or that the insurance plans they purchased would not cover their preexisting conditions, despite promising comprehensive coverage. Beyond major illnesses, Arizonans with even common conditions, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, asthma, and even acne, were denied the coverage they needed. Until recently, insurance companies had also been allowed to charge consumers higher prices for insurance plans only to leave out coverage for essential health benefits that virtually all Americans eventually need, such as prescription drug costs, ambulance costs, and hospital stays—that consumers rightly expect will be covered.

Insurance is supposed to be there when people need it. Hard-working Americans who play by the rules and pay their monthly premiums shouldn’t have to fear the rug being pulled out from under them at the very moment they need healthcare. That is why such discrimination against people with preexisting health conditions is now banned and why health insurance plans are now required to provide essential health benefits. That is why it is so disturbing that the administration and some Members of Congress have been moving backward, allowing insurance companies to again sell plans to Americans that lack the very health protections consumers need.

Congress has a lot of work to do to make healthcare affordable and protect access for American families and businesses, from lowering premiums to stopping surprise medical bills. But partisan approaches will not solve these challenges. We can and must work across the aisle to pass bipartisan solutions, such as increasing the number of doctors to address provider shortages, lowering costs for home health services, expanding mental healthcare, and eliminating the health insurance tax.

I have partnered with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to sponsor legislation that would allow insurance companies to return to their old practices will only hurt everyday Arizona families. These health plans lack key protections. They are often called junk plans and for good reason. Junk plans misled Arizonans—to increase premiums billed as health insurance when, in fact, it is better described as a bill of goods. When Arizonans who are sold these plans need to actually use the coverage they paid for, the rug gets pulled out from under them.

I hear from hard-working Arizonas on a daily basis who deserve access to critical health protections; Arizonans like Chantal, who has a preexisting autoimmune disease that without treatment would cause her to become blind; Arizonans like Corrine from Phoenix, whose daughter was born with a congenital heart condition—before the law protected people with preexisting conditions, no family—Corrine was unable to find an insurer who would cover their family—and Arizonans like John from Casa Grande, who signed up for a plan that he was told covered preexisting conditions only to find out that he would have to pay the first month’s premium, that his particular preexisting condition wouldn’t qualify for coverage.

There are 2.8 million Arizonans under the age of 65 just like Chantal, Corrine, and John who live with preexisting health conditions. That is half of all nonelderly Arizonas whose healthcare is at risk. These Arizonas remind us exactly what is at stake and exactly what is wrong with partisan politics in Washington. For too long, too many elected officials here have focused on how they can score political points to help them win the next election, all at the expense of the health and security of everyday families.

Arizona families are rightly worried that the dysfunction and chaos they see coming from Washington could threaten their family’s coverage, and that is unacceptable.

It is time to get partisan politics out of Arizonans’ healthcare. I call on both parties to quit the partisan games, come together, and stop the sale of junk plans that fail to protect people with preexisting conditions. We must protect access to healthcare for these millions of Arizonans and tens of millions of Americans, and we must make healthcare more affordable for everyday families.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on S.J. Res. 52. I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor as a proud Member of this Chamber of the Senate and as someone who believes earnestly in our role in our country’s constitutional order. I am on the floor because a real and significant challenge to this body and each of our Members is potentially in the very near future.

Right now, the House of Representa-
tives is holding an impeachment in-
quiry, focused on grave and significant charges against our President related to the very threats to our democracy of foreign interference that our Founders feared the most. I am not here to argue over whether President Trump’s ac-
tions deserve impeachment or perhaps even removal from office. It is, I think, inappropriate to reach that point. In-
stead, I am here today, as the inquiry proceeds in the very near future, to urge my col-
leagues in the Senate—Republicans, Independents, and Democrats—to take seriously the moment we are in and the tests we may have soon ahead as a Sen-
ate when we will need to uphold and defend the role of this institution.

I am on the floor to issue a challenge to all of my colleagues. If an impeachment trial does take place in the Sen-
ate, all of us must decide to approach it like Americans—less as people rep-
resenting any parochial or partisan or particular interest, less as Democrats or Republicans or Independents, and in-
stead as Senators. If we are called to serve as jurors in an impeachment trial, it is all of us must show our nation and the world that this body—that this institution—has not been completely overtaken by the divisive political era in which we live. Nothing less than the Senate’s very legitimacy will be at stake.

Our Founders warned about the chal-
lenge of this moment. They warned specifically that foreign powers improperly influencing our American Government were, in the words of Alex-
ander Hamilton, “the most deadly ad-
ersaries of republican government.” This is why our Constitution entrusts Congress with the enormous power of potential removal through impeach-
ment.

James Madison called impeachment “indispensable . . . for defending the Community [against] the incapacity, negligence or perfidy of the chief Mаг-
istrate”—a reference to the President. Alex-
ander Hamilton argued that the Senate was the proper body to hold an impeachment trial. The Founders en-
trusted us to protect our country from “the misconduct of public men,” and “the abuse or violation of some public trust.”

George Mason put forward the pre-
cise language that appears in our Con-
stitution, the language of “high crimes and misdemeanors” and urged that impe-
achment must be a remedy to re-
move even a President, asking: “Shall any man be above Justice?” Our Founders insisted that no one—no one—in our Nation, in our constitutional order, not even our President, is above the law. That is why the principle remains the very linchpin of our government.

Based on what we know today from press reports about the President’s ac-
tions and from notes of a conversation, I believe it is critical that the House of Representa-
tives have a thorough and fair in-
quiry. If the House does vote impeach-
ment articles, Members of the Senate will have to live up to the responsibilities which the Framers of our Nation entrusted to us. The eyes of history will be upon us.

Let me be clear. I am not saying that if the House should vote articles of im-
peachment, it will be the Senate’s duty to vote to remove him. It will be, in-
stead, the responsibility of every single Senator to carry our their duty to serve as impartial jurors with their principle focus—their oath—to uphold and defend the Constitution and noth-
thing else informing our decisions.
This is a challenge to all of my colleagues. Both Republicans and Democrats must appreciate the gravity of this process as we call on our colleagues to do the same. Democrats, equally with Republicans, must not allow the customary and time-honored practice of vigorous disagreements to become a rule of the Senate. Our colleagues to influence our judgment and cloud it. We have to understand that this process—this likely future moment—is far more important than our own individual political fortunes. An impeachment trial of a sitting President would be a true test of the integrity and capabilities of the Senate—our commitment to follow the facts, to consider the evidence, and to apply the rule of law. It will be a test that we, as a body, cannot afford to fail.

It is important to begin the process of establishing what that process might look like as soon as there are impeachment articles, if that is the direction the House takes. The basic rules are clear as stated in the Constitution: The House is given the "sole power of impeachment," and the Senate "the sole power to try," as jury, "all impeachments." If the House votes to impeach, the Senate must conduct a trial and either convict by two-thirds or acquit on whatever counts are presented.

At that trial, the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court will preside; the House managers will present the case; the President will have their own counsel; and the Senators serve as the jury. The manner in which our leaders, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer, direct the Senate in the event of a trial will be the most important test in a generation of whether our Senate remains capable of enforcing the law, living up to the Constitution, and upholding the responsibilities our Founders bestowed upon us.

I will remind you of the opening vote in the impeachment trial for President Clinton. The vote that set the rules under which that trial would proceed was unanimous. It was 100 to 0. An impeachment trial, should it come in the near future here, must not be gamed or politicized or subjected to brinksmanship, and any trial should be governed by rules that are passed on a broad and bipartisan basis, animated by justice over partisanship.

In many ways, an impeachment trial would be an institution of the Senate would itself also be on trial. We as a body need to show the American people and the world that we are more than just 100 elected politicians who have been brought here by partisan whim or by a bare majority of our States but instead, by a body whose sum is much more than its individual parts. We must act as stewards together for our democracy. History is watching us, all of us—Democrats, Independents, Republicans. How we respond will impact our Senate and our Nation for years to come.

In the days, weeks, or months to come, I hope my colleagues will rise to the challenges we face, deliberate with an eye toward history, an ear toward our constituents, and a heart focused on our Constitution, and prove that, in this body, we answer to the Constitution, not to any particular or partisan loyalty. We act not to appease, to appeal to another elected official. The health of our very institutions and of democracy itself is at stake.

REMEMBERING SONIA SCHORR SLOAN

Madam President, in my home State of Delaware, we have just lost a dear friend and neighbor. Sonia Schorr Sloan was a force of nature, "Sonny," as we affectionately called her, dedicated her life to confronting social injustices, and her activism, her philanthropy, her mentorship, and her public service made my home State of Delaware a better place for everyone. So I rise to celebrate and honor her work, her spirit, and her impact on so many of us.

Her story began on April 1, 1928. She was born in Wilmington, DE, to parents Sigmund and Rosalia Schorr. Sigmund Schorr was a well-known Wilmingtonian haberdasher, who was elected to the Delaware General Assembly and later served for many years as president of the New Castle County Board of Elections. Rosalia, her mother, worked as a public schoolteacher and was very active with community and civic groups, like the Young Women's Hebrew Association and the Garden Club. Sonny credited her parents for raising her in an atmosphere of active community involvement.

Throughout her life, she was exceptional bright and gifted. As an honors graduate of Wilmington High School, she pursued a bachelor's degree at the University of Delaware. She earned her master's degree in bacteriology and graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University in 1949. She was accepted to Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, where she earned her M.D. degree in microbiology. She was the very first woman to graduate from Jefferson in its 125-year history and was the first student to complete graduate work there. After teaching several years at Temple University School of Medicine, she became the very first woman hired by DuPont to work in the prestigious central research department in Wilmington, which is where many great inventions were made.

While at DuPont, she got involved with the Young Democrats and met fellow scientist Gilbert Jacob Sloan of nearby Fairfax. Sonny and Gil, who was, frankly, inseparable for the rest of their lives, fell in love. A few years later, they were married at Temple Beth Emeth on the Ardmore Day of 1957. Together, they raised two wonderful sons, Victor and Jonathan.

During this period, Sonny became more and more involved with local community groups and political organizations. Sonny's commitment to public service was a hallmark of her life. She was a skilled and forceful advocate, a tireless campaign organizer, and a relentless fundraiser for community groups and campaigns alike. Whether it seemed doable or not, when she saw a need, she would fill it.

When people felt like Delaware needed a more active advocacy organization for them, they were concerned about civil liberties and civil justice and civil rights, Sonny and others founded and launched the Delaware Chapter of the ACLU. When she became increasingly concerned about the policy, she took an active role in access to reproductive rights, she launched and ran a capital campaign to build a brand new facility for Planned Parenthood of Delaware. She was involved in the creation and launch of an AmeriCorps program, Public Allies of Delaware, and the Cancer Support Community of Delaware. She was involved in so many different civic and community organizations and in so many campaigns that they are more council and then for the U.S. Senate, she played a central role in Joe Biden's first election in 1972 to this body. Sonia Sloan mentored countless other people and dozens of other elected officials, not just my predecessor and Vice President, but also a mentor to this young candidate as well when I first ran for office.

Equally, if not more importantly, she was a tireless and engaged mentor for folks no one has heard of—folks not elected but folks in need. She was a mentor for a young man who had just been released from our local juvenile detention center. Sonny helped him get a State identification card, helped him find a job, and get a new bicycle—a reliable means of transportation. She helped him, mentored him, and supported him until he was able to get back on his feet.

She recorded books for the blind. At one point, she once raised over $100 million for various nonprofits and agencies. She was able to pick and choose the causes she championed and didn't do anything for which she lacked passion. Her work touched our whole community, from the Food Bank of Delaware and the West End Neighborhood House to the YWCA of Delaware and the Delaware College of Art and Design. She tirelessly supported these many causes, Sonny invested in the people in whom she believed. She was a mentor from the very first days of when a young, then-29-year-old Joe Biden launched his campaign first for county council and then for the U.S. Senate, and she played a central role in Joe Biden's first election in 1972 to this body. Sonia Sloan mentored countless other people and dozens of other elected officials, not just my predecessor and Vice President, but was a mentor to this young candidate as well when I first ran for office.

Equally, if not more importantly, she was a tireless and engaged mentor for
Aside from her civic engagements, she loved to run and was often seen jogging around Rockford Park, which is near my home. She adored cooking for her family; she collected stamps; she could play the flute and piano; and she loved to read.

Upon learning that Sonny had passed away at age 91, one friend remarked that Sonny still had so many stories to share and so much energy and passion to give.

Another friend called her a beacon of light and a pillar of courage whose light will shine for many years to come.

She never stopped taking a chance on young candidates and on first-time candidates.

A friend of mine, recently elected State Senator Laura Sturgeon, said: Sonny Sloan took a chance on me, even though I had no political experience, name recognition, or resources. Once people heard she was in my corner, endorsements and support poured in. I am who I am because of my parents, but I am where I am, representing the Fourth District of the State Senate, because of Sonny Sloan.

It is clear that she accomplished many firsts, broke many barriers, and paved endless paths for many people. She had strong and passionate feelings about countless issues, but the empowerment of women, the election of women to office, and the advancement of women in our society was absolutely impossible.

As she so often said, “Women’s issues are not just women’s issues; they are everybody’s issues.”

One of the last times I got to see Sonny was at a dinner in her honor in March of this year. It was there that I joined hundreds of friends and neighbors to recognize her legacy of service, from her efforts to end the Vietnam war to her advocacy for women’s rights. She lived her life committed to a deep belief she shared with many of us—that what you can do to change just one life for the better because, as the Talmud teaches, when you change one life, you can change the world. Sonny did that thousands of times.

She was tough and determined, funny and smart. She never hesitated to offer very direct input to those of us she knew needed correction or direction, but she could equally offer compelling and comforting advice. She has been and will always be to me that voice of conscience inside my head, challenging me not to settle for the easy but to push for what seems difficult or even impossible.

Her dedication for fighting for justice was modeled only by her tireless love for Gil, Victor, Jonathan, her five granddaughters, and five great-grandchildren. She was the best of what we are as Delawareans. Her sharp intelligence, her fierce resolve, and her unwavering dedication to people and causes will be impossible to replace.

So, to Sonny, I wish to say: We will all miss you—family, friends, neighbors, and the thousands whose lives you have touched. You have affected the lives of countless Delawareans. I am truly grateful to have known you and to have been a part of your work to make our State and our world a better place. You will forever have my deepest thanks.

Back in October of 1969, in concluding an anti-war rally, Sonia read a Jewish prayer with some touching and, I think, fitting final words:

Bless our country, that it may always be a stronghold of peace, and its advocate among the nations. May contentment reign within its border, health and happiness within its homes. Strengthen the bonds of friendship among the inhabitants of all lands, and may the love of Your name hallow every home and every heart.

These are touching and fitting words. Sonny, bless you and thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, I come to the floor to talk about several amendments I am working on in relation to the Commerce, Justice, Science, State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture; the Interior and Environment, and Related Agencies; and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bills that this body will be working on this week.

The first amendment I am offering to the legislation addresses a very serious issue; that being the rising scourge of methamphetamine around the country.

Methamphetamine—meth—use is something we talked a lot about a decade ago. Conversations turned to opioid abuse in this country—and rightfully so—and focused on opioids, but unfortunately meth use is now increasing dramatically in States like Colorado as we continue to address the opioid epidemic.

When I traveled across Colorado over the summer and last week and through the August work period, I heard from rural sheriffs across the State who were especially concerned about the severe impact that meth was having on our small communities. Headlines this summer and as recently as this week talked about the increase in meth use across Colorado and the country.

From 2011 to 2018, treatment admissions for meth across Colorado increased by nearly 40 percent. In 2018, 318 people died in Colorado from meth overdoses. That is a 750-percent increase over 10 years. From 1999 to 2018, there has been a 1,450-percent increase in meth arrests in Denver alone. In 2018, which was just last year, the Denver Police made nearly 1,500 meth-related arrests. Indeed, there were more meth arrests in Denver than there were arrests for heroin and cocaine combined.

Meth causes property damage. It damages our families. It can cause, certainly, permanent damage to the individual who is using meth, and it causes tremendous harm to families. In Utah, just in August, nearly $2.2 million worth of methamphetamine was confiscated—seized—in the State of Utah that was heading to Colorado. That $2.2 million was enough meth to provide 1.1 million individual doses in Colorado. It was just one way, and it would have done great harm.

I have introduced an amendment that would add $1 million to the COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program. This $1 million increase would allow one million individual doses to an area, to a State, to a drug program to help reduce and to break up this cycle of meth.

We have heard from the people in Colorado. We have heard from the sheriffs. We have heard from our communities to do more. I believe this amendment does more to help address the epidemic of meth and the lives it is shattering in Colorado, and I hope my colleagues will be able to support this issue.

In particular, I thank Senator Daines, Senator Tester, Senator Gillibrand, Senator Baldwin, and Senator Jones, who have all joined me in adding $1 million, fully paid for and offset within the bill, to help combat this epidemic of meth in our country and certainly in our States like Colorado.

Another amendment I have been working on is the bulletproof vest amendment. We have seen far too many attacks on our law enforcement over the past several years. This legislation would provide a $1.1 billion fund for our Nation’s law enforcement officers with type 3 bulletproof vests. These vests are capable of stopping more powerful rifle ballistics and, therefore, would allow more officers to come home at the end of the day from their service. That is what we need to be focusing on—how to protect the men and women in blue in our communities.

I am proud to have joined legislation earlier this year that has been signed into law that permanently reauthorizes the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, and I hope we continue to build and offer our support to those who defend that thin blue line.

The crown jewel of our conservation programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, has benefited Colorado and this country so significantly over the past several decades. It is something that has affected every State in the country in our being able to preserve and protect some of our most pristine environments across this great land. Last spring, we were able to work together in a bipartisan effort to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This legislation, which is the amendment I will be offering to the bill, would fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. So, while we have done great things in permanently authorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we need to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation.
Fund. This amendment would do just that and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Why is this important?

The outdoor economy, that of protecting our public lands, is so critical to the State of Colorado. The outdoor economy alone in Colorado generates $28 billion in consumer spending and $2 billion in State and local tax revenue. It employs close to 230,000 people just in Colorado alone, which makes Colorado the number one destination for outdoor visitors. If you are interested in skiing, there are already 40 inches of snow in Summit County, and several ski resorts have opened up already. It is snowing right now in Colorado, so this amendment is all the more important as people look to our State for the continued enjoyment of the great outdoors.

I have a bipartisan amendment with seven of my colleagues—Senators BENNET, DAINES, TESTER, BURR, HINCHICH, COLLINS, and SHABEEB—that will fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2020, and I hope this Chamber will support the legislation.

I am also working on an amendment that will address the ski area fees that our ski resorts pay to the Federal Government in order to operate on public lands and have their ski runs on public lands. Many times, the ski resorts, the ski areas, are the largest employers in our mountain communities and contribute significantly to the economy and to the health and stability of our local communities.

There are 122 of our ski areas that operate on National Forest System lands. They generate, roughly, $37 million in rental fees for the Treasury. Yet staffing levels for those very recreation programs are 40-percent lower than they were in the year 2000. Just as more and more people are enjoying our public lands, we see fewer and fewer people who are employed by the Federal Government to deal with those public lands, to process the permitting needs, and to address the needs of our public lands.

Fire borrowing has been an issue that has gobbled up some of the funding that has helped manage our forests. We have put a bipartisan fix in place that will no longer allow that money to be gobbled up, but we need to find a solution to the fire area fee retention as well so we can allow that money to stay within the forest in which it is generated.

Now that we have the fire borrowing fix, we can put the ski area fee bill in place and have even more dollars returned to the forest from which those fees are generated so we can address the staffing issues and other complex issues we face in our national forests. This bill alone would allow a portion of that $37 million to be returned to the forest service and better customer service from those in the ski areas that are trying to accommodate even more and more people who visit our great ski areas.

I am also working on an amendment to the legislation that deals with RTD, which is working on an expansion system in Denver, and the Front Range.

Years ago, the Department of Transportation was working on an effort that refunded some programs in Colorado. The RTD, more than 20 years earlier, basically paid off the loan on one of these projects. The RTD was told it would be reimbursed by the Department of Transportation if it paid this off. Unfortunately, even though it had paid it off early, it has not been reimbursed.

If you look at the effort and the project it accomplished with this loan, the Denver Union Station project is one of the highlights of urban renewal in the country. The RTD got the loan successfully paid off early—a great success. Now it needs that money back in order to continue investing in Colorado. I am working with Senator BENNET to make sure this money gets back to Colorado, which is one of the amendments we have filed.

Mr. GARDNER. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is one of the Nation's premier research agencies in the Federal Government. Colorado is lucky to house the second-largest contingent of NIST staff in Boulder, whereas they work on issues like telecommunications, biosciences, forensics, and quantum information science and technology.

NIST’s Boulder campus, and their affiliated NIST-JILA partnership, has won three Nobel Prizes and three National Medals of Science. These preeminent experts were charged with continuing to build on the successes in the National Quantum Initiative Act, which passed into law just this last Congress.

But in order to remain competitive globally, competing against countries like China, the United States has to continue its robust investments in science and research and development, and that is going to require investing in our science facilities as well.

When I was able to travel to the NIST facilities in Boulder, I witnessed a trash can and giant trash bag used to collect rainwater from a leaky roof. Nobel Prize-winning scientists working there. It is harmful to think that it is okay for this great country to have Nobel Prize-winning scientists working in a facility that can’t even keep them dry because the roof leaks.

While I am grateful to the Appropriations Committee’s attention to increasing the construction and facilities budget for NIST in recent years, we have a lot more work to do. That is why, in light of the National Quantum Initiative Act, I introduced an amendment to the Appropriations bill to provide an additional $161 million for construction and renovation costs for NIST projects.

In partnering with universities, like the University of Colorado at Boulder, NIST can continue to expand their work on issues like quantum in renovated and new state-of-the-art research facilities. That benefits the State of Colorado and will retain and grow our competitive advantage around the globe.

Another issue that I continue to hear about in Colorado, that we were able to address through the appropriations process before us, is affordable housing. It is an urban issue; it is something that you face in Boulder or Denver or Colorado Springs. But it is an issue that I hear in some of the smallest communities, as well as the biggest communities.

So Senator YOUNG and I have been working on an amendment that deals with affordable housing. We know we have a relationship between the lack of affordable housing and issues relating to education, employment as well. And those issues, combined with homelessness and lack of affordable housing, combine with other issues to create strains on government and our social services.

The amendment we have offered will help us better understand those challenges and the root causes of and lack of affordable housing, and help us understand the effects of the affordable housing crisis on health and education and employment as well.

It will help us to understand what work we need to do to solve the problem or whether there are smaller programs that are already working to expand, help, do even more good.

These are a number of bills related to the great State of Colorado, and in this country and I think will do a lot of good, and as we process these appropriations bills in a bipartisan fashion, we will be able to improve and help in addressing some major issues.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I wish to discuss this administration’s perpetual actions to weaken protections for people with preexisting conditions.

Last fall, the administration issued guidance for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act—ACA—that would loosen the statutory guardrails for 1332 State waivers. The guidance encourages states to increase access to ACA non-compliant coverage.

The actions of the administration cannot make this message any clearer: President Trump does not support protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

Because of the ACA, health insurance companies cannot refuse to cover someone or charge someone more just because they have a pre-existing condition. Among the most common pre-existing conditions are high blood pressure, behavioral health disorders, high cholesterol, asthma/chronic lung disease, heart conditions, diabetes, and cancer.
In 2017, HHS released a report stating that as many as 133 million non-elderly Americans have a preexisting condition. The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange estimates that there are approximately 2.5 million nonelderly Marylanders with a preexisting condition, 320,000 of which deny coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions. Unfortunately, the Trump administration is taking actions that directly threaten these 133 million Americans, actions, which can lead to them being denied access to healthcare.

The Trump administration’s updated guidance on section 1332 waivers skirrets the intention of the law. Originally section 1332 of the ACA provided States with the flexibility to test new health coverage programs, as long as innovation waivers met certain criteria. States applying for 1332 waivers had to show that their proposal provided residents with health coverage with at least the same level of protections guaranteed by the ACA, that was at least as affordable, and covered at least a comparable number of State residents as currently covered under the ACA.

For example, Maryland was able to use a 1332 waiver to establish a State reinsurance program, which lowered insurance premiums by as much as 22 percent from 2018 premiums.

However, the Trump administration has issued guidance that redefines the guardrails of section 1332 and will now allow States to include plans that do not comply with the ACA’s consumer protections. The guidance also encourages states to allow premium tax credits for non-ACA compliant plans, plans that don’t offer essential health benefits or protect those with preexisting conditions.

The updated 1332 guidance allows States to expand these partisan attempts to weaken the ACA, increase costs on consumers, and increase the uninsured rate.

Today, because the ACA is the law of the land, all new options for health coverage, the affordable care act, allow States to expand these partisan attempts to weaken the ACA, increase costs on consumers, and increase the uninsured rate.

Over the next year, we will see a final ruling on this lawsuit, and a ruling in favor of these States will be nothing short of catastrophic.

President Trump and this administration do not support affordable insurance for those with preexisting conditions. I was proud to join Senator W Ayman in introducing the bipartisan reinsurance act resolution to overturn the administration’s 1332 waiver guidance to ensure protections for individuals with preexisting conditions.

The harm done by this administration to those with preexisting conditions will lead to higher costs of care for the millions of Americans. This resolution is a clear opportunity to show our opposition to the actions of the Trump administration to deny coverage for individuals with preexisting conditions.

My Democratic colleagues and I are calling attention to ACA, which has worked and is working, and how the Trump administration’s actions seek to overturn the progress we have made to strip consumer protections like protections for preexisting conditions away from patients. We can’t afford as a country to go back to the days before 2010 when millions of Americans could not get health insurance. The ACA was signed into law almost 10 years ago and still its opponents have not given up. Americans with preexisting conditions, those who are fighting illnesses, parents with children with complex medical needs, young people who need
coverage while they explore new career opportunities, these people—our constituents, our neighbors, our families—do not have the time to wait for Republicans to come up with a solution for a problem they, themselves, are creating.

We should instead be spending our time working on solutions to today’s problems. There are pressing issues that Congress should be spending time addressing to improve health in this country.

Prescription drug costs continue to skyrocket. In fact, addressing prescription drug costs alone would go a long way towards bringing down healthcare costs overall; yet, if the ACA goes away, this will be for naught. It won’t matter if the drug companies are required to negotiate fair prices for drugs and are prevented from gouging customers. Without affordable health insurance, consumers will continue to be priced out of lifesaving drugs and treatment.

Further, without the ACA, requirements that plans must cover prescription drugs would go away. Indeed, before the ACA, many plans did not cover needed prescription drugs, leaving patients to pay entirely out of pocket for lifesaving treatments and products and putting lives at risk.”

Our bipartisan work on critical healthcare issues such as lowering drug costs. The American people—my constituents and yours—expect better.

I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stand up to this administration’s reckless plans to upend our healthcare system and work with us to improve our healthcare system instead.

Madam President, before I conclude my remarks, I would like some comments on the death of my dear colleague Senator Kay Hagan, and I would ask unanimous consent that these remarks be placed in the appropriate section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in which other tributes of Senator Hagan are placed.

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

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN
Mr. REED. Madam President, Kay Hagan was an extraordinary individual, a great Senator from the State of North Carolina, and a great person.

I had the opportunity to express my thoughts to her husband Chip, whom I talked with yesterday. We will all miss her advocacy for support of military families, small businesses, students, and Americans everywhere, particularly in her home State of North Carolina.

I had the pleasure of serving with her in this body and the Armed Services and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committees, and we traveled together to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in 2010.

All of us here in the Senate are saddened by this loss, and we send all of our thoughts to Chip and her family.

I must share a vivid memory. Senator Hagan and I were in Afghanistan, and, again, this dauntless, courageous Senator was on a moonrise infantry patrol, moving from a forward operating base far away from Kabul, far away from the center of our activities in a remote corner of Afghanistan. We were moving from the base to a meeting with local Afghan fighters.

As we rolled down this dusty road, I looked over and pointed and said, “Kay, see all those beautiful red flowers?” She said, “Yes, they are very attractive. What are they?” I said, “Well, they are opium poppies.”

You see, we were in the middle of a battle in which we had to support our Afghan allies, and at the same time not alienate the Afghan population. It was one of the complex issues involved in that struggle. She understood that. But she understood also the sacrifice and service of the men and women who were there that day with us in the middle of a combat zone, and she fought for them relentlessly.

Many of them were constituents from Fort Bragg, NC, from Camp Lejeune, from other places around that State. She had a deep and abiding influence in that, and she would not stop going forth to dangerous places to see what they were sharing in terms of danger and deprivation.

She was an extraordinary woman—such decency, such care, such compassion, such humanity. I deeply, deeply mourn her passing.

To Chip and all of her family, my sincerest condolences on the passing of an incredible woman who graced this Chamber with decency and dignity, and I know—I know—her example of courage, strength, and love will continue to sustain and inspire her family and those of us who were privileged enough to serve with her.

May she rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

UNITED STATES–MEXICO–CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, a couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege to stand at Iron Horse Industrial Park. It is a brand-new industrial park just outside of Shawnee, OK. It is run by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and for the last 10 years, they have had the dream of opening up a location in Oklahoma where there could be foreign trade; different countries could come in to do manufacturing there, and they would be able to work through raw material and to ship the product.

That location of Pro-Pipe will start manufacturing pipe that they will send all over the place. It is a Canadian company, but it will have about 40 or 45 jobs that are Oklahoma jobs that are there.

Now, why do I mention that? I mention that because it was a reminder—again, as I sat on that platform next to Canadians, the Japanese delegation that was there, the Taiwanese delegation that was there, and others from multiple other countries—about how integrated we really are.

If I took you to Shawnee, OK, there are some great people—and it is a fantastic country—the first thing you would think of probably wouldn’t be international trade, but it should be.

In Oklahoma, our top two trading partners are Canada and Mexico. We have an overwhelming amount of trade just with those two countries. In fact, we exported $2.4 billion worth of goods just to Canada and Mexico last year.

We are a very connected economy, and working through the trade issues is incredibly important to us. That is why this new trade agreement that replaces NAFTA, which is now decades old and needs a revision, is so important, because our Oklahoma economy depends a lot on how we trade. A lot of
our jobs are connected through agriculture, manufacturing, digital sales, other financial services that are connected through trade to Canada and Mexico. They cooperate with us; we cooperate with them.

So the new agreement started in the negotiation process. It started in August of 2017. The Trump administration, the administration in Mexico and in Canada all sat down and decided to reopen NAFTA after the Trump administration put tremendous pressure on Canada and Mexico to update this agreement.

Initially, everyone said they didn't want to change a thing, and from August 2017 until September of 2018, our three countries negotiated a new trade agreement that all three countries now have come back in their leadership and said: That is a better deal than what NAFTA was. That works better for everyone. It provides new elements on things like digital trade that wasn't an issue 20 years ago. E-commerce wasn't a thing at the time; now, it is. So there are digital trade updates.

There are also areas about innovation and intellectual property that help protect inventors in all three countries. What they have done is invented and to make sure the benefits come back to those inventors and back to those countries.

There are also new protections for labor. There have been longstanding issues in labor practices in Mexico. This addresses some of those things and some basic human rights elements for Mexico.

It also adds new environmental requirements so that we would take on as a whole of North America in the way we do manufacturing, the way we do fishing, the way we handle marine litter, the way we handle sustainable forest management, all of those things would be addressed in this trade agreement.

It is a very comprehensive agreement—the USMCA agreement—and it is very important that we actually get it passed. I hope you didn't miss the timeline that I laid out. The negotiation started in August of 2017. The negotiation finished in September of 2018. Since October of 2018, that agreement has been sitting on a vote in the House of Representatives.

Mexico has already long since passed it. The only part of the agreement, they have passed the laws doing the implementing language. They have long since passed it. Everyone is waiting for the United States to pass this trade agreement that will help us in labor issues, help us in manufacturing, help us in ag exports. Help us in our digital trade, help us in environmental policy. We are all waiting on the House of Representatives to take it up.

We are now past a year that the House has had this. It has to start, constitutionally, in the House, and I cannot say strongly enough how important this is to be able to maintain our momentum in trade with Canada and Mexico that we should not have to wait.

Now, some in the House say this is about not giving President Trump a win, so they don't want to vote on it because it will give President Trump a win. This is not about the President of a country. In fact, Mexico has already changed Presidents since the time of this agreement. This is about giving the American people a win. This is, quite frankly, to be selfish, about the people of Oklahoma getting a win. It is also about added labor and intellectual property protections; it is additional opportunities to do investment that we would like to be able to see for my State and for the people of my State, so I can't encourage enough the House to take this up.

I do want to also compliment the administration for taking this agreement on. Three years ago, no one thought this agreement could be done nor should be done, and now, when it is in the process of being finalized, everyone seems to be saying: That is better. Let's keep going.

The administration has also recently struck a deal with Japan. Japan is a trade partner already, just like Canada and Mexico, but we have had some issues with Japan. The United States exported $14 billion in food and agricultural products to Japan just in 2018—$14 billion. But out of that $14 billion, right at half, $7.2 billion of those had a need to address some of the issues and also some additional protections. So this new trade agreement that the administration just struck with Japan is exceptionally helpful to us. It takes out half of the tariffs—either reduces them or eliminates them entirely—of our ag trade back and forth with Japan.

Why is that a big deal for Oklahoma? You may say Oklahoma is a long way from Japan. It is, except we ship a lot of beef that way, and we could ship a lot more.

This agreement specifically deals with things like beef, pork, poultry, sorghum, wheat. Those are products that are all coming right out of my State, and it is exceptionally important that this agreement has been done.

Now, this agreement doesn't have to come through Congress. It is an executive agreement. It is not like the USMCA. It is done. So we have already seen a gain in Oklahoma based on that trade agreement in Japan. The encouragement I can make to the administration is: Keep doing this.

We have further negotiations we need to have completed in the Pacific. While they have done step one with Japan, there is more to be done with Japan on lowering other tariffs, but we would also like to see a trade agreement with New Zealand. We would also like to see a trade agreement with other partners in the Pacific where we still need trade deals done. Keep going, and keep expanding markets.

The big issue right now is with China. Our trade issues with China have been significant. They have been significant for decades. The last five Presidents have all tried to deal with some of the problems with China and trade, their theft of intellectual property, their violations of basic dignity for their workers. The environmental problems they have in China has been deplorable.

We should address the issues of trade with China, and we should address how we can further not only cooperate but deal with some of the inequities of the USMCA agreement and some of the inequities of environmental policy and certainly deal with the theft of intellectual property.

As China is one of the worst human rights violators in the world, in our trade negotiations, we should talk about things like free press, freedom of religion, and opportunities for the Uighurs, who are literally bound up in concentration camps being reeducated to be more Chinese rather than being able to live out their faith as Muslims there in China.

There are many issues we need to deal with that go beyond just dollars. It is how we actually interact with each other. So for the administration, the last five Presidents have all tried to resolve issues with China.

Keep going. We have to be able to get this done, but hold China to account on human rights issues, while we are also dealing with economic issues. This is our moment to address those critical needs.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Cassidy). The Senator from Washington.

HEALTHCARE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, this afternoon, I join with a number of my colleagues to put Republicans on notice that their healthcare charade is coming to an end.

Tomorrow, the Senate will go on the record and make clear, once and for all, whether they stand with patients and families who are counting on them or with President Trump and big insurance companies.

Tomorrow, Democrats will force the Senate to vote on our bill to reverse President Trump's rule that undermines protections for people with pre-existing conditions and promotes junk health plans and higher costs for families.

For too long, Republicans have been making empty promises on healthcare, while taking harmful steps that make things worse for patients and families.

Time after time, Democrats have asked Republicans to work with us to actually make healthcare work better for patients and families, but, time after time, Senate Republicans have said no. In fact, there has been no greater cheerleader for President Trump's relentless attacks on families' healthcare and no greater obstacle to
passing solutions to repair the damage than Senate Republicans.

This isn’t just a hypothetical conversation. Any day now—any day now—we could get a ruling on the partisan lawsuit brought by President Trump that would undermine healthcare for over 100 million people by ending protections for people with preexisting conditions, stripping away coverage families got through the exchange, gutting Medicaid expansion and letting young adults get kicked off of their parents’ insurance before they turn 26.

A Republican win on this could absolutely drive up costs by scrapping the caps on patients’ out-of-pocket costs, while bringing back lifetime and annual caps on their benefits—even for those insured through their employer—and ending essential health benefits that require insurers to cover prescription drugs, maternity care, mental health care, emergency care, and more.

When Senate Democrats took a stand against this dangerous lawsuit and introduced this legislation to fight for patients and give power back to insurers—letting young adults get kicked off of the presidency’s rule and making coverage more affordable for working families—Democrats in the House have already passed solutions to repair the damage, and I hope they will do the right thing and stand up for families’ healthcare, especially if it means being a Republican who is fighting against President Trump’s harmful rule. I believe issues as important as families’ healthcare should come before party, and I hope we will see tomorrow that Republicans agree.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, first, I thank my colleague, the distinguished Senator from Washington, for her leadership on the issue of providing healthcare to all Americans. In a democracy where everyone counts, everyone should have access to high quality, affordable care.

I rise today to discuss the Trump administration’s efforts to undermine our health insurance system and scam healthcare consumers by allowing harmful health plans to be sold to unsuspecting, vulnerable Americans.

Since the President’s first day in office, his administration has taken measure after measure that makes it harder for patients to access necessary care, weakens our healthcare system, and increases costs.

This latest effort to expand access to what are appropriately referred to as “junk” health plans would allow insurance companies to discriminate against Americans who experience preexisting conditions and would also leave patients with higher healthcare costs and worse insurance coverage.

Junk plans don’t cover even basic benefits, such as prescription drugs, substance use disorder treatment, or maternity care. People often don’t realize how inadequate these plans are until they are in the middle of a medical crisis.

Unless you can guarantee that you will never get sick, never break a limb, or never get into an accident, these plans are a bad deal for you. We all know that life doesn’t come with those guarantees, and when the worse does happen, when illness or injury strikes, these plans are, more often than not, barely worth the paper they are written on.

Junk plans can lead to two very bad outcomes. The first is that the patient chooses to receive the critical care they need, but, because the short-term junk plan doesn’t cover the care, the patient ends up being stuck with an inordinate high out-of-pocket medical bill, or the patient, upon learning that the junk plan doesn’t cover critical care, chooses not to get the care they need, which leads to adverse outcomes or an unplanned trip to the emergency room, the cost of which may be footed by the taxpayer.

If you are someone with a preexisting condition, such as asthma, diabetes, or cancer, you could be charged more, sometimes hundreds of dollars a month, and I don’t even cover many of your most basic benefits or you can be denied certain benefits altogether.

If that sounds familiar, it is because if the same situation people with preexisting conditions were in before the passage of the Affordable Care Act. That is why I am calling on all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote to repeal the Trump administration’s rule that authorizes these junk plans, threatening protections for millions of Americans with preexisting conditions and increasing healthcare costs all across the board.

There is one thing that Republicans and Democrats should all agree on, it is that we must ensure that people with preexisting conditions are protected and that they can be covered—people like Bernadette Clark of Manchester, whose young son is living with cerebral palsy, a complex medical condition, and who would not have access to the type of health insurance that she and her family need if not for the protections that the Affordable Care Act afforded to people with preexisting conditions.

Doctors, nurses, hospitals, and patients universally oppose these junk plans because they know how dangerous these plans are for the health and well-being of our people.

I urge every Senator to stand with Granite Staters and all Americans in opposing the Trump administration’s latest attack on our healthcare system.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the Senator knows, Senate Democrats have been working very hard on the appropriations bills. I commend his staff and my staff for all the work they have done. It is not just the bill’s first page and the number at the end that counts.

There is a whole lot that goes in in between.

There are a number of policy considerations that are in there. There are
things that Senators from both parties want that make a great deal of sense and both parties are for it, and we are putting those together. I would hope, having done all that, it means that within the next day or so we can get at least four of these appropriations bills passed.

I remind everybody that the last time Senator SHELBY and I went through this exercise, we passed most of the bills, if not unanimously, virtually unanimously. I think it helps the Senate. It helps us that we are doing our work and that we can set aside partisan differences and do what is best for the country.

The other body has been working very hard in the House of Representatives on their appropriations bills. Their Appropriations Committee is led by two of the finest members I have served with: NITA LOWEY, the chair from New York, and KAY GRANGER, the ranking member from Texas—one a Democrat and one a Republican—both of whom believe in the Congress and have our support, and they worked hard. I say that just because I have had so many Members ask me how it is going. I think it is going better than anybody might at this point earlier. We will get it done.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The record shows the following temporary legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MRS. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, since President Trump was sworn in, he has made it his mission to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. Last Congress, time and again, we saw the House and Senate majorities try—and fail—to repeal the law of the land, the Affordable Care Act.

After their attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed in the Senate, the Trump administration made it abundantly clear that they would do everything possible to sabotage the act through regulations and administrative action. Through this sabotage, the administration has undermined the critical protections healthcare providers for people with preexisting conditions.

I just want to reiterate my support for the Congressional Review Act disapproval resolution that I worked on with Senator WARNER, and I congratulate him for his leadership. What that resolution points out is that preexisting conditions and short-term insurance plans, also known as junk plans, are inconsistent. I am proud to support the disapproval resolution that we will vote on this week that would reverse this administration’s so-called 1332 waiver rules.

Those rules allow for the use of taxpayer dollars to subsidize junk insurance plans. These waiver rules are part of the Trump administration’s ongoing attempt to make an end run around Congress and dismantle the Affordable Care Act through the regulatory process.

I think it is important to understand the shortcomings of these junk plans that the administration is promoting. These plans are allowed to deny coverage to someone who has a preexisting condition. They also allow insurance companies to charge higher premiums if somebody has a preexisting condition. They are not required to cover the Affordable Care Act’s essential benefits, such as maternity care, substance use disorder treatment, or prescription drugs. In New Hampshire, where we have a real challenge with the opioid epidemic, without coverage for substance use disorders, we have thousands of people who would not be able to get treatment for their substance use disorders.

These plans also allowed to place arbitrary limits on the dollar value of services that will be covered annually, and they also don’t have to comply with the Affordable Care Act’s caps on how much insurers can require that patients pay out of pocket. In short, these junk policy plans are often not worth the paper they are written on, but for some reason, these are plans that are favored by this administration.

The administration’s 1332 waiver rules effectively rewrite the law to allow the Affordable Care Act premium tax credits to be used to purchase junk plan coverage. So rather than help subsidize comprehensive healthcare coverage as was intended in the act—coverage that will actually allow people to get the healthcare services they need—what the Trump administration waiver does is have those taxpayer subsidies cover junk plans that generally do not provide that need.

Allowing taxpayer dollars to subsidize junk plan coverage is not only dangerous for consumers, who can be duped into purchasing junk plans, but it also poses a threat to the stability of the insurance market. By aggressively pushing enrollment in junk plans, this administration is seeking to split the insurance market into two: one market for younger and healthier individuals and a second, much more expensive market for older individuals and people with preexisting conditions. This is not the outcome that people in New Hampshire and patients across this country want or deserve.

That is why I intend to vote in favor of the Congressional Review Act resolution, which will overturn these rules that are sabotaging the Affordable Care Act.

Unfortunately, the waiver rules are not the only grave threat that this administration is posing to access to healthcare coverage and protections for people with preexisting conditions. In addition to the sabotage of the ACA that is going on, the Department of Justice—our Nation’s highest law enforcement authority—continues to refuse to defend the law of the land, the Affordable Care Act, in Federal court. Instead, the Justice Department has argued that the Affordable Care Act would be struck down in the loss of coverage for millions of Americans. The estimate is that if the Affordable Care Act is struck down, 20 million Americans will lose their healthcare.

In New Hampshire, approximately 90,000 Granite Staters have obtained health insurance coverage through either the Affordable Care Act or Medicaid expansion. Across the country, more than 17 million Medicaid expansion enrollees and 11 million people in the marketplace health plan depend on the ACA for their coverage. So these families can see their coverage ripped away if the Department of Justice gets the FISA’s approval pathway for less expensive biosimilar medication would be invalidated.

I have been watching these ads on behalf of President Trump and the administration that are all about the commitment to lowering prescription drug prices, a victory by the Department of Justice in this case would increase prescription drug costs for Granite State seniors, who currently save an average of $1,100 a year thanks to the ACA’s Medicare Part D drug discount program.

That is not all. If the courts strike down the Affordable Care Act, insurers would once again be able to exclude coverage for prescription drugs, and the Federal approval pathway for less expensive biosimilar medications would be invalidated.

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This Friday is the start of the 2020 open enrollment season for the Health Insurance Marketplace coverage under the Affordable Care Act. At this important juncture, we should be sending a very clear message that the Department of Justice should defend the law of the land that the administration’s promotion of junk plans should not continue. If we fail to do so, we are going to be endangering vital access to care for millions—tens of millions—of Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 916

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my honor to come to the floor to speak on an issue that is important for so many Americans.

Let me start at the outset—before I move to unanimous consent on a specific piece of legislation—by saying that I believe that the change in the Affordable Care Act, which prohibited discrimination against people because of preexisting conditions, is one of the most fundamental changes in health insurance in America. Who among us doesn’t have a member of their family or a friend with a preexisting condition?

There was a time, of course, when because of that, people were denied any coverage or charged exorbitant amounts of money. Overwhelmingly, we understand that if we are going to have a health insurance system that really serves the entire Nation, we cannot allow health insurance companies to pick and choose.

Prior to the Affordable Care Act’s passage in 2010, health insurers used to charge people with preexisting conditions higher monthly premiums or simply deny them coverage all together. Health insurance companies used to impose annual lifetime caps on what they would pay for these events. These arbitrary limits disproportionately hurt people with preexisting conditions who often needed ongoing intensive medical care, and insurance companies before the Affordable Care Act used to refuse coverage for certain healthcare services that people with preexisting conditions needed—prescription drugs, hospital visits, mental health and substance abuse treatment, maternity and newborn care.

The Affordable Care Act changed all of that. There are no more denials or higher premiums for preexisting conditions, which is an amazing breakthrough. There are no more annual or lifetime caps on benefits and no more refusals to cover maternity benefits or doctor visits.

Ten years ago, every single Democrat—I was one of them—voted in favor of the Affordable Care Act, and I would do it again today. It was a law that ensured these protections for people with preexisting conditions really meant something and were enforceable.

Ten years ago, every single Senate Republican voted against the Affordable Care Act. Since it has been signed into law, House and Senate Republicans have voted more than 100 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Their efforts have failed. There was one most dramatic effort, which many of us remember; just a couple of years ago, right here in the well of the Senate when the late Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, came to the floor in the middle of the night and cast a “no” vote. He believed, and I think he was right—I am sure he was right when he said: You can’t just be against something; you have to be for something. The Republican side of the aisle has no alternative to the Affordable Care Act. They are just against it. They don’t like it. They don’t like ObamaCare. They don’t like Obama’s administration. They just vote no over and over again.

Right now, there is a pending lawsuit that even would try to eliminate the entire Affordable Care Act, including the protection for people with preexisting conditions. Eighteen Republican-led States, including the State of Texas, brought the suit after congressional Republicans eliminated the ACA’s mandate. President Trump’s Department of Justice supports this bill to eliminate the Affordable Care Act. If this lawsuit is successful, nearly 20 million Americans—600,000 of them living in Illinois—could lose their health insurance, and nearly 133 million Americans with preexisting conditions—3 million in Illinois—could once again be at risk of discrimination by health insurance companies. As if that weren’t bad enough, President Trump has also proposed new rules that would allow States to discriminate against Americans with preexisting conditions.

This week, the Senate will be voting on a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the Trump administration’s latest assault on Americans with preexisting conditions. Senator WARNER of Virginia has offered a resolution of disapproval, cosponsored by every single Senate Democrat. If any Senator on the Republican side really wants to help people with preexisting conditions, join us. Make this a bipartisan effort to tell President Trump and his administration it is wrong. We should not discriminate against people with preexisting conditions.

I hope that Senate Republicans will consider supporting a piece of legislation known as the MOMMA’s Act. I am cosponsoring it; in fact, I am the lead sponsor in the Senate. The House sponsor is Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY of Illinois. It would ensure that all pregnant women get the care they need. Why is this important to raise in a modern country like America, with our great natural and medical resources? Because the United States is 1 of only 13 countries in the world where maternal mortality rates are worse now than they were 25 years ago. I want to repeat that because it is an incredibly sad fact. The United States is 1 of only 13 countries in the world where maternal death rates are worse now than they were 25 years ago.

Fortuitously, the President is a medical doctor. I know he has dedicated a good part of his professional career to serving people of low income, limited means.

You think when you hear that number about maternal mortality in the United States, it cleverly must be associated with economic levels, income levels, wealth levels, education levels. It turns out it is not. Nationwide, more than 700 women die every year as a result of pregnancy, and more than 70,000 suffer near-fatal complications. More than 60 percent of maternal deaths are preventable.

Sadly, the tragedy of maternal mortality is even more pronounced when it comes to mothers of color. In the United States, women of color are three to four times more likely than White women to experience a pregnancy-related death. In Illinois, they are six times more likely than White women to die.

When I researched this, I went to the University of Chicago and asked the OB/GYNs there to look into the stats, looking into the study to figure out what is behind this. They said: Senator, there is no correlation among income, education attainment, and this death rate among women. It is only a question of color. We are losing new moms, and, sadly, we are losing babies as well. Every year, more than 23,000 infants die in the United States, largely due to factors that could be prevented. Black infants are twice as likely to die as White infants—a disparity that is greater than it was in the year 1850 in this country.

That is why Representative KELLY, my colleague Senator DUCKWORTH, and I introduced the MOMMA’s Act. First and foremost, our bill would expand Title X funding so that women can keep her Medicaid healthcare coverage. Currently, Medicaid has to cover women only for 2 months postpartum—after the baby is born. Our bill would expand that to a full year.

Next, the MOMMA’s Act would improve access to doulas, as well as improve implicit bias and cultural competency training among healthcare providers. Too often, Black women are just not listened to or taken seriously by healthcare providers. Doulas can provide education, advocacy, and support for women whose voices are being ignored.

Lastly, our bill would improve hospital coordination reporting on maternal healthcare outcomes so that all women can get the quality care they need.

Leader McCONNELL has made it clear that he has no intention of allowing the Senate to debate and pass legislation, instead, rendering the Senate to what has been characterized as a “legislative bystander.” Senator MCCONNELL likes to play with the Grim Reaper—his words—the Grim Reaper. Nothing will pass in the Senate.
But I hope he will make an exception for the MOMMA’s Act, which is currently moving through the House of Representatives. Whether you are pro-choice or whether you are right to life, shouldn’t we all stand together—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—and do? Let’s do something to eliminate this unacceptable level of maternal mortality in the United States. Let’s do something to save these babies. Let’s agree on that part if we can’t agree on anything else.

Mr. DURBIN. I seek unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 960 and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Reserving the right to object, this bill is in the jurisdiction of a committee that I am chairman of, the Senate Finance Committee. I think the Senate Finance Committee has a reputation for doing things in a very bipartisan way and moving a lot of important legislation. For example, we moved a bill out of committee to, hopefully, get consideration on the floor. It is a very bipartisan bill that reduces the cost of prescription drugs. We did that on a 19-to-9 vote.

There are a lot of other things we are working on, including some trade legislation. We want to consider, hopefully, in a bipartisan way the U.S.-Mexico agreement. We also have an agreement out on encouraged savings and things of that nature.

I want to respond to my friend by reminding him how our committee works. Last night was the first time that it was an interest in moving Senator DURBIN’s bill. The bill has not been through the committee process, and, therefore, there has been no opportunity to weigh in with what we know and to determine what we need.

There are a number of programs focused on reducing maternal mortality, and it is unclear how this bill coordinates with those efforts. This bill makes a number of long-term changes to Medicaid policy and budgetary impacts are unknown.

I am offering a counterproposal in the Medicaid Program to address maternal health and identify underserved areas. Additional funding is provided for existing Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grants. This focus is fully offset by a policy that saves money by focusing our limited resources on moms and babies, rather than spending on prisoners at a higher percentage in our most vulnerable population.

I am going to offer Senator DURBIN this proposal that I just described. I ask the Senator to modify his request to include my amendment, which is at the desk.

I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that this motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object, the Senator from Iowa is my friend. We throw that word around here on the Senate floor, and it usually doesn’t mean much, but it is true. We are friends. I respect him very much. I think he is a good father, good grandfather, and I think the time will come—and I hope soon—when we can sit down and take his proposal and my proposal and put them together and make a bill we will both be proud of. We have done that before, even to the point of getting the President to sign the bill into law.

For the future, because and because his proposal cuts some Medicaid benefits that are a great concern to me. I am going to object in the hope that we can use this opportunity and this moment as a basis for sitting down and finding a bill we can agree on.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard on the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. McSALLY). The Senator from Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MILLIMAN

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise to honor and pay tribute to one of the most tenacious and dedicated Kentuckians I have had the pleasure of knowing, Mr. Jim Milliman.

Jim represented Brown & Williamson, one of Kentucky’s finest attorneys, for over 40 years and was an integral part of the tobacco litigation and the State Republicans in election law matters. He has dedicated so much of his time to the pursuit of liberty and freedom, to defending the principles that made this Nation great, and to supporting a pro-Kentucky policy agenda.

Thank you, Jim, for your service to Kentucky and to this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that debate time for S.J. Res. 52 expire at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during yesterday’s session of the Senate ripen following the disposition of S.J. Res. 52.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate, after a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, be adjourned until 10 a.m., Wednesday, October 30, further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of S.J. Res. 52, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators PERDUE, CASSIDY, and CASEY.

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

The Senator from Georgia.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, Nelson Mandela once said: “Education is the best weapon with which to light up the world in their futures. Unfortunately, today, given the realities that we have seen over the last few years, some of these students are at risk.

Last week was designated as America's Safe Schools Week. It was meant as a time to reflect on the steps we are taking to protect our children every day. Upon reflection, however, one thing has become very clear: In many cases, considering the current realities, our public schools have not been designed physically to deal with the student safety issue.

The consequences of this are heart-breaking. We have heard this story too many times: Parkland, FL, 17 lives; Newtown, CT, 27 lives; Columbine, CO, 13 lives. These were some of the darkest days in our country’s history. None of us will ever forget the terror, the tears, and the devastation that these events and their aftermath have felt. For the parents and the relatives of those affected, it is a nightmare from which many will never wake up.

This can’t be allowed to continue. There is an implicit agreement that when we drop our children off at a school, we know they are going to be kept safe. In many cases today, we are not fulfilling that agreement. There are a lot of steps we must take in order to face this crisis. I am confident that if we come together in a bipartisan fashion and focus on doing what actually works, we can make our schools safer.

The U.S. Senate has a chance to get this started right now. Last month, in a bipartisan effort, Senators DOUG JONES, THOM TILLIS, and SHELLEY CAPITO joined me in sponsoring the School Safety Clearinghouse Act. This bipartisan bill is a critical first step that will help to protect students and faculty in our public schools in America.

The School Safety Clearinghouse Act will codify a recommendation from President Trump’s Federal Commission on School Safety to create a Federal clearinghouse containing all of the best practices for designing safer schools. The techniques contained in the school safety clearinghouse will come from the brightest engineers, architects, researchers, and educators in the country. It will be a library that schools can trust when making critical decisions and when talking about physical upgrades in their environment. It is imperative that schools have the best design information because design flaws in school buildings are placing our students and faculty at risk every day.

When drafting this bill, our office met with Alex Schachter, whose son, Alex, was tragically killed in the Santa Fe High School massacre in Parkland, FL, not that long ago. On that awful day, the murderer fired through the window in Alex’s classroom door and murdered Alex and two of his classmates. Senselessness. And that is what we had the window been designed with an obstructed view, Alex might be alive today.

Madam President, fixing design flaws like these and similar others that we need to take a step toward today to make our schools safer. Most schools understand this, and they are doing everything they can to close the security lapse.

In August, I saw this firsthand when I toured Mashburn Elementary School in Forsyth County—with Georgia’s First Lady Marty Kemp—which has taken incredible steps with grants from the State, that the Governor made available, to enhance their safety measures.

Using this grant money made available by Governor Brian Kemp, Mashburn has restructured all their entryways, reinforced the doors to every classroom, and launched new emergency readiness protocols. As a result, Mashburn is better able to prevent tragedy from occurring.

And the best thing, it has in recent years actually developed a very close relationship with the local police force and sheriff’s department. At Mashburn, they have a sheriff’s deputy in school every day.

Every school in the country wants to upgrade their safety. The problem is that many schools don’t simply have the information they need to make the best choices. The School Safety Clearinghouse Act will close this information gap once and for all.

This is not a top-down government program by the way. The School Safety Clearinghouse Act will never have an unfunded mandate or make any recommendations or force any school to take any action. Rather, the School Safety Clearinghouse Act will empower them to make the decisions for themselves.

Here in America, it doesn’t matter if you have big donors or have none; this is the land of opportunity. Everyone has the right to pursue their own happiness. A good education, as we know, is the best way to start that.

I learned that from my parents, both of whom were public school teachers. I see it happening today through my three grandkids. In this country, we promise all of our kids a good education. We now need to promise a safe education as well.

The School Safety Clearinghouse Act is a step that we can take right now, right here in this body, to fulfill that responsibility. We have no time to waste. Every day, students across the country attend schools to learn, grow, and build their lives. The longer we wait to secure our schools, the higher the chance that some of those students will not come home.

This is not all we need to do; this is just a first start. Madam President. If this bill helps to make one school safer or saves one life, it will be worth it. Let’s get it done. Thank you.

I yield back.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President was presiding before adjournment. I asked several speeches by my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle speaking about the 1332 waiver process that the Trump administration is using to lower insurance premiums, and the kind of common refrain is: This is a terrible thing. We are employees in the Affordable Care Act, and we should preserve the Affordable Care Act as it is. This is so ironic because the people who want to get rid of Obamacare right now are running for President on the Democratic side of the ticket.

If you ask BERNIE SANDERS if he wants to get replace Obamacare, he raises his hand. If you ask ELIZABETH WARREN if she wants to replace Obamacare and force people to give up their employer-provided insurance, she raises her hand.

Now, why do the Presidential candidates—Democratic Presidential candidates sit there and say: Hey, let’s get rid of Obamacare? And when the administration doesn’t have the ability to lower premiums, my Democratic colleagues stand up and decry this kind of assault upon whatever value they are speaking to.

What I think is the Democratic candidates running for President are so aware that healthcare costs under Obama have skyrocketed. Let me see if I can find my figures here, but it’s quite remarkable.

Let’s just speak a little bit about what has happened. Since 2013, the deductible for someone with single coverage has increased by 53 percent. And despite deductibles going up, say $10,000, premiums have increased 20 percent. So the patient’s out-of-pocket exposure is increasing both in the deductible and with their premium. For a family of four in Louisiana—we looked on healthcare.gov just walking here—$25,000 for the policy with an over $10,000 deductible.

Now, this is not affordable. So clearly there is a concern about affordability. That is what the Trump administration has been trying to address. And frankly, that is what BERNIE
SANDERS AND ELIZABETH WARREN wish to have Americans sacrifice their employer-sponsored insurance to address.

But my Democratic Senate colleagues don’t want to do this. They would rather have all the protections of Obamacare, if you can afford the policy. And truly, that is what we are doing now. And now, we get to speaking about the waivers that the Trump administration is giving, somehow they are saying these are terrible things.

Let me point out that, in the seven States with 1332 waivers granted under the Trump administration, health insurance premiums have decreased by 7.5 percent. Some States have had a double-digit reduction. Maryland, for example—and I will come back to Maryland—has had a 30-percent reduction in their health insurance premiums under the 1332 waiver given by the Trump administration. North Dakota had a 20-percent reduction.

And what about if you didn’t get a waiver? In my State, which didn’t apply for a waiver, premiums are expected to rise 10 percent this coming year—10 percent. So the family of four paying $25,000 a year with a $10,000 deductible will have to pay $27,500 next year with a $12,500 deductible, meaning they will be out almost $40,000—$40,000 for their health insurance.

I suspect there is a lot of families in my State that wouldn’t have minded if we applied for a waiver if we could get just lower premiums, instead of seeing out-of-pocket expense continue to rise.

Now, there is a little bit of an irony here. Maryland has a legislature dominated by Democrats, and they actually got a 1332 waiver. So my Democratic colleagues who are speaking about how terrible these waivers are, they should look back to States which Democrats control who are applying for these waivers.

I am told that Montana has a waiver, Montana with a Democratic Governor who is running for President on the Democratic side of the ticket. Apparently, that person felt it was something that he would sign into law and otherwise approve because it would be beneficial to the people in the State.

I don’t know why, in the Senate, my Democratic Senate colleagues want Americans to pay more for insurance. Why do they insist on continuing to secure premiums which make health care, health insurance, so unaffordable?

This is personal for me. Besides being an American wanting all to have coverage, for 25 years, I worked in a hospital for the working poor; for the uninsured, trying to bring healthcare to those who could not otherwise afford it. It has been my life mission, if you will, as a physician, to try and get healthcare to those who cannot have it.

And so when folks want to give them this great policy, but you can’t afford it, but don’t worry, it is a great policy if you can afford it, I have to smile. Like the Greek myth Tantalus—where we get the word “tantalize” from—where the prize is always just beyond the reach, just beyond the reach, always there to tempt, but you can never have.

So you have a family making $20,000 a year having to pay $25,000 for insurance, with a $10,000 deductible. They are sacrificing so many things. It is tantalizing, but we are sure this is a better state of affairs.

Now, with the administration has done, they have given States flexibility to craft affordable options for families that do not have subsidies. It respects the fact that some States are different than other States. Imagine that.

Alaska is different than Rhode Island—Alaska, if you laid it across a map of the lower 48, would stretch from Georgia to California, but has fewer people than Rhode Island, and Rhode Island, which is a postage stamp compared to Alaska. Those States are different, so all of them have different healthcare systems.

By the way, when we do this, we are assured by the administration that they continue to enforce protections for those with preexisting conditions and other things that as Americans, that we as Republicans, that I as a physician who have spent my life caring for the uninsured, value—so that, if healthcare is not affordable, it is not available. And what we have seen by the folks on the left who are concerned about healthcare, it is a doubling down on government control.

They want to go for Medicare for All. They want to take away your employer-sponsored insurance. But at least they acknowledge that cost is a problem. What my Senate colleagues are not doing, the ones who are speaking today, is acknowledging that cost is a problem, and you can have the greatest plan in the world and, if it is unaffordable, then that greatness is ironic. It is a great plan, but it is not real in someone’s life.

What we have seen is that States, when they come to the Federal Government requesting permission to put in a program which is specific to the circumstances in their State, they are not only covering the citizens in their State, continuing to have protections for those with preexisting conditions, but they are also lowering premiums by as much as 30 percent. And that is a good thing, and I have no clue why my Democratic colleagues do not want to see premiums lowered by 30 percent.

Madam President, thank you, and I yield the floor.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

REMEMBERING ELLIJAH CUMMINGS

• Ms. HARRIS. Madam President, our Nation mourns the loss of one of the country’s greatest leaders, Representative Elijah Eugene Cummings, whose life’s work as a fervent champion for civil rights and his beloved community in Baltimore, MD left an indelible mark on our Nation. Congressman Cummings died on October 17, 2019 in Baltimore, MD. He was 68 years old.

Representative Cummings was born on April 18, 1951, in Baltimore, MD. He was the third of seven children born to sharecroppers, Robert Cummings and Ruth Elma Cummings, who moved north from South Carolina in search of better opportunities for their family. Representative Cummings graduated from Baltimore City College High School and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in political science from Howard University in Washington, DC, where he served as student government president and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Representative Cummings obtained a juris doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1975. Throughout his career, he received 13 honorary doctorates from universities throughout the country.

Representative Cummings’ career in public service began in 1983 when we was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. Representative Cummings proudly served in this role for 11 years, becoming the first African-American Speaker of the House of Delegates. In 1996, he was elected to represent Maryland’s 7th District in the House of Representatives as a member of the 104th Congress. Representative Cummings focused on legislative priorities that promoted equality and economic development, including: criminal justice reform, lowering prescription drug prices, and combatting the opioid epidemic, among others. As a respected Congressman, he became a ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

As the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Representative Cummings was a powerful voice who achieved a reputation as a skilled consensus builder. He understood accountability and protecting those who courageously spoke the truth to protect our Nation. He fought daily to ensure our democracy was not only intact but striving to live up to its promise. At the foundation of his fight was advocacy for justice and equal opportunity for every American.

Representative Cummings made it his personal responsibility to champion civil rights issues, particularly voting rights. His fierce advocacy was fueled, in part, by the words of his mother who on her death bed, implored him to ensure the right to vote was preserved. He would heed her words by delivering his own stirring calls to action. He understood the significance of the right to vote in our democracy and worked tirelessly to oppose voter suppression, condemn discrimination, encourage voting, and launch critical investigations when voters—particularly people of color—faced discriminatory voting
challenges. Representative Cummings’ visionary leadership and service has and will continue to strengthen our democracy for generations to come.

Representative Elijah Cummings’ steadfast dedication to the city of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, and our entire country will continue to inspire others for generations to come. An impassioned speaker, he was truly a voice for the voiceless. As a mentor, he helped so many young people live in their purpose and make the world a better place. He fought for the poor and needy, and selflessly dedicated his life to empowering and uplifting his constituents.

Representative Cummings is survived by his wife, Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, his children, and a host of family and friends. It was a great honor to attend his powerful funeral and memorial service with many of my colleagues and friends.

Representative Cummings often said that “it is the living messages that we send to a future we will never see.” A light is gone from our world, but Representative Cummings’ legacy will shine bright through all the individuals he touched and all the movements he helped build.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, in just a few weeks, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will hold their annual meeting in Laramie, WY. This year is unique, as the organization marks its 100th anniversary. This meeting celebrates ten decades of service to farmers and ranchers across the State. Without question, the agriculture industry in the State, and in the region, has seen immense benefit from the important work the Federation employees do every day.

Today, the Wyoming Farm Bureau is integral in gathering public opinion and disseminating information to farmers and ranchers across the state. Officially, their mission identifies “The primary goal of WYFB is to take appropriate actions to protect private property rights and help members achieve an equitable return on their investment.” Just as they did in 1920, the organization brings individuals together to identify common threats to their way of life. Wyoming Farm Bureau worked closely with the national organization during the 2015 waters of the United States rulemaking process to effectively communicate the negative impacts the rule would have on those who are the primary caretakers of our Nation’s natural resources.

As chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I invited the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation president, Todd Fornstrom, to share his story. He emphasized the need to protect clean, plentiful water sources while providing predictability for States, counties, and communities. Through his testimony, Todd skillfully shared the undeniable link between agricultural production and the Wyoming way of life and Wyoming’s commitment to protecting our precious resources.

I believe you can tell the strength of an organization by the dedication shown by its members and staff. Todd Fornstrom is serving his third elected term as president. Executive Vice President Ken Hamilton recently celebrated his 36th anniversary with the organization. Media and Member Relations Director Kerin Clark just passed 25 years, and Brett Moline has served Farm Bureau for 13 years. Every one of the 23 counties in Wyoming has a local Farm Bureau organization to help build policy and address local issues. The county committees are key parts of the communities they serve.

Without question, farmers and ranchers faced many challenges when the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation was founded in 1920. Just as they did 100 years ago, farmers and ranchers continue to work together today to produce abundant, high-quality food for their families and communities around the world. I can only imagine the challenging discussions that prompted the first meeting in 1920, but I am certain early members left that meeting with the same confidence they will leave the 100th meeting.

Working in agriculture is not simply a job. It is a calling, and sometimes, a challenging way of life. I rise today with great appreciation for the work Farm Bureau farmers and ranchers have done, and continue to do, for our great State. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in congratulating each member of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation on their 100th anniversary.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING WEED AND PEST COUNCIL

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Morris Andrews, a revered champion of teachers, children, and public education in Wisconsin.

Morris Andrews was born in Big Rapids, MI, on November 26, 1935. As a talented student athlete, Andrews graduated from Big Rapids High School and went on to play football at Central Michigan University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in secondary education. He earned his master’s degree from Indiana University in physical education.

Morris taught high school government, coached football, and organized teachers throughout the country. He came to Wisconsin to lead the Wisconsin Education Association Council, WEAC, in 1972, initiating a transition that were valued in the State. Morris brought pride, power, and respectable wages to the teaching profession.
After the protracted and bitter Hortonville teachers strike in 1974, Morris helped craft a mediation/arbitration law that replaced the right to strike with collective bargaining. This new way of settling public sector labor disputes ushered in decades of labor peace.

Under his leadership, WEAC set the standard for recognizing the importance of teachers in shaping the future for generations of students. As teachers’ rights increased, so did graduation rates and test scores. Wisconsin ACT scores rose to the top of the national charts for decades. Morris also initiated advancements in education that are now taken for granted, including uniform graduation requirements, gender equity in school athletics, universal special education programs, school nursing services, and remedial reading programs for underachieving students.

Morris never shied away from a fight worth winning. One never had to guess whose side he was on. He knew what was right and was willing to back his convictions with action, for the betterment of teachers, students, and education, and he knew how to get it for them. By organizing and empowering teachers, he shifted the balance of political power in Wisconsin away from well-heeled corporate interests toward K-12 students, their parents, and the dedicated educators who teach them.

When Morris began his tenure in 1972, WEAC had 40,000 members and little involvement in State politics or education policy. When he retired 29 years later, he left a 22,000-member powerhouse with a $10 million budget and a staff of 175 that was a major player in the State legislature and at the ballot box.

Morris didn’t rest after his retirement from WEAC in 1992. He remained committed to his passions of organizing and advocacy, providing sage advice to candidates of both parties running for office and speaking assertively for those without a voice. Morris also left an indelible mark on the State through his work on behalf of the Urban League of Greater Madison, Fair Wisconsin, and the campaign to build the Monona Terrace Convention Center.

There is only one endeavor that surpassed his work with WEAC: his efforts to promote, children, and public schools: his dedication to Kris, his wife of 25 years, and his siblings, children, and grandchildren. Beneath his gruff exterior lived a man with a gentle heart who cared deeply about his family, friends, and colleagues.

Morris Andrews believed in his heart and soul that a solid education system was the very foundation of a strong democracy. He dedicated his life to ensuring both education and democracy thrived in Wisconsin. His legacy lives on in the successes of generations of leaders educated in Wisconsin public schools. He can rest in peace knowing he indeed made a significant difference.

TRIBUTE TO TONY EARL
Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize former Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his election to the Wisconsin State Assembly and the beginning of a remarkable career of public service. Governor Earl is a progressive leader in Wisconsin politics and government. He successfully fought to clean up our polluted waters and protect our environment. He is passionate about building a society where no one is left behind, and he listens to the voices of those whose voices are too often not heard.

Anthony Scully Earl was born in St. Ignace, MI, and enjoyed his childhood on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. As the son of a grocery store owner, Tony was influenced by his father’s strong work ethic. He took this work ethic with him to Michigan State, where he graduated in 1958. After earning his law degree at the University of Chicago, Tony served our country in the U.S. Navy for 4 years.

Following his military service, he moved to Wausau, WI, in 1965 and immediately became an integral part of the community. He served as an assistant district attorney in Marathon County for a year before becoming the first full-time city attorney for Wausau from 1966 to 1969. Following the nomination of Wisconsin Congressman Melvin Laird to serve as Secretary of Defense and the special election of Dave Obey to succeed Laird in Congress, Tony himself was elected to fill Dave Obey’s seat in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Tony was so respected by his colleagues that he was elected majority leader after only 1 year in the assembly.

He was later tapped by Governor Patrick Lucey to serve as Secretary of the Department of Administration, followed by service as Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. He chaired the Center for Clean Air Policy and directed the Great Lakes Protection Fund. In recognition of his passionate stewardship of Wisconsin’s natural beauty and his commitment to environmental protection, the State of Wisconsin recently renamed the Peshtigo State Forest in his honor.

In 1982, Tony Earl was elected Governor of Wisconsin. As Governor, Tony was principled, courageous, and bold. He was passionate about equality, and his leadership had a profound impact, particularly on women. Recognizing that people working in female-dominated fields were often paid less than workers in comparable male-dominated jobs, Tony established a commission to conduct a comprehensive study of the comparable worth of State government jobs and then used that data to establish pay equity for State employees. He led by example and his work informed decisions by other governmental entities and the private sector.

Early in my career, I had the privilege of interning in Governor Earl’s office, working with his advisor on women’s issues, Roberta Gassman. It was an extraordinary opportunity that inspired me to pursue a career in public service. In addition to his advocacy for women, Tony was a trailblazer in the fight for LGBT equality. He was among the first Governor’s to establish the LGBT community he established the first Governor’s Council on Lesbian and Gay issues, which provided much needed oversight of anti-discrimination laws that had been recently adopted in Wisconsin. Working with Tony earl taught me the importance of doing what is right, regardless of political popularity. Tony personifies our strong Wisconsin values of kindness, determination and hard work.

I am grateful to Tony Earl for all of his contributions to the State of Wisconsin. I am pleased to join thousands of people across our State in recognizing Tony’s dedication to public service and achievements over the past 50 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS
TRIBUTE TO SEAMAN 2ND CLASS MARTIN ROY
Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, today I would like to recognize the birthday of U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Martin Roy of Manchester, NH. Mr. Roy was born on November 11, 1914, in Armagh, Canada, a day that would become Armistice Day in 1918 and was later renamed to Veterans Day in 1954. Mr. Roy moved to the United States as a teenager and worked in the mills in Lowell, MS as a mechanical repairman.

In 1943, Mr. Roy enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served during World War II. He was onboard the USS Franklin, also known as Big Ben, on March 19, 1945, when a Japanese pilot dropped two bombs on the ship. The bombs caused explosions and fires that triggered ammunition, bombs, and rockets. Along with 700 surviving crewmembers, Mr. Roy helped throw the remaining explosives overboard and saved the ship. When he was honorably discharged in 1945, Mr. Roy received a letter of thanks signed by James Forrestal, then Secretary of the Navy who would later become the first Secretary of Defense.

On February 22, 1946, Mr. Roy married Louise Boutin, whom he had met while working in the mills. They had two children, Paul and Cecile, and moved to Suncook, NH in the early 1950s.

Seaman 2nd Class Martin Roy took a job at the Suncook Mills and, using his mechanical skills, he, along with a friend developed a patent to repair looms in the mill. In addition, for many years Mr. Roy owned and operated two convenience stores, one in Lowell and another Suncook. A man of many interests, Mr. Roy also trained thoroughbred horses over a nearly 20-year period and traveled the New England circuit, owning eight
horses at one time. Upon his so-called retirement, Mr. Roy worked part time as a janitor and repairman in the local bank, never ceasing to work hard and give back to his community.

Mr. President, I hope you will join me in wishing a dedicated, patriotic, and multi-talented Granite Stater, Martin Roy, a very Happy 105th birthday.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 647. An act 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, research, and evidence-based care in palliative and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

H.R. 728. An act to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 896. An act to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program.

H.R. 1354. An act to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1735. An act to establish a task force on NOTAM improvements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1781. An act to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission with access to certain drug payment information, including certain rebates and other information; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2781. An act to amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs related to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3242. An act to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4607. An act to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to direct the Office of Community Affairs to identify causes leading to, and solutions for, underbanked, un-banked, and underserved consumers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4534. An act to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to appropriate funds for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4860. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to subject crowdfunding vehicles to the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 693. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.

H.R. 1396. An act to award Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson and Dr. Christine Darden, to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, and to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor all of the women who contributed to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 647. An act 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, research, and evidence-based care in palliative and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 728. An act to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1354. An act to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1735. An act to establish a task force on NOTAM improvements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1781. An act to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission with access to certain drug payment information, including certain rebates and other information; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2781. An act to amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs related to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3242. An act to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4607. An act to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to direct the Office of Community Affairs to identify causes leading to, and solutions for, underbanked, un-banked, and underserved consumers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4534. An act to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to appropriate funds for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4860. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to subject crowdfunding vehicles to the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Finance by petition, pursuant to § 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 52. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to ‘‘State Relief and Empowerment Waivers’’.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4334. An act to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 29, 2019, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 693. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA
flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, as required by law, were referred as indicated:

EC–3028. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District” (FRL No. 10000–90–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3036. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District” (FRL No. 10000–68–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3047. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Revisions to Sulfur Dioxide Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 10001–49–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3057. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Final Approval of the State Underground Storage Tank Program” (FRL No. 10001–75–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3062. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Single-Sheet Format for U.S. Census Curves Pilot Project” (FRL No. 10000–85–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3063. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Hampshire: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program” (FRL No. 10000–88–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3064. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Policy Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Single-Page Format for U.S. Official Form for Schedule I and II Controlled Substances (DEA Form 222)” (RIN1117–AB4 (Docket No. DEA–453)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3065. A communication from the Associate Director for Legislative Affairs, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Commerce transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “FY2018 Annual Report on Small Entity Compliance Guides”; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 2731. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes. (Rept. No. 116–155).

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 2731. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services:

Army nomination of Col. Andrew C. Hilmes, to be Brigadier General.


Navy nomination of Capt. Gregory C. Huffman, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).


Army nomination of Maj. Mark C. Schwartz, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Karl Konzelman, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Randy A. George, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Edwin J. Deeddick, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.


Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination
lists which were printed in the Records on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nomination of David B. Martin, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Matthew A. Styles and ending with Lindsey P. Davis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Air Force nomination of Shyla A. Canty-Smith, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Travis M. Allen and ending with Christopher D. Underwood II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Army nominations of Brandon R. Burden, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Stephen D. Gresswell and ending with Tessa L. Winters, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Army nominations beginning with Brian P. Berlakovitch and ending with Scott J. Rumisek, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Army nomination of Timothy M. Donelson, to be Major.

Army nomination of Cesar A. Patino, to be Major.

Army nomination of John J. Vogel, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Lance A. Brown, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Gregory J. Hirshey, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Michael C. Hait, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Christopher O. Dorsey, to be Major.

Army nomination of Galen Clipperly, to be Major.

Army nomination of Wayne J. Harsha, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Paula A. Boice and ending with Chuanse Zoh, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Army nomination of Brian E. Burk, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Rhianna K. Rigs, to be Major.

Army nomination of Fatima H. Khan, to be Major.

Army nomination of Demetrios E. Walton, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Gregory B. Bassirr and ending with Erica W. Widmar, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Army nominations beginning with Joseph A. Burton and ending with Ronald C. Vicars, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Army nomination of Eric L. Rahman, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Guadalupe Resendez, Jr., to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Katrina A. Parlow, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Leslie E. Akins and ending with D014484, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Army nominations beginning with Matthew W. Casparr and ending with Glen E. Templeton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Army nomination of Kenneth J. Biskner, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Nayari N. Cameron and ending with Juan A. Villatoro, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Army nomination of Deleno M. Harper, Jr., to be Major.

Army nomination of James M. McCandless, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Jens K. Pederson, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Greco E. Carreras and ending with Paul E. Gebhardt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Army nomination of James H. Feaster, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Christa M. Chewaw, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Erik A. Ernst, to be Major.

Army nomination of Joshua D. Helsel, to be Major.

Army nomination of Scott T. McCartney, to be Major.

Army nomination of Broderick L. Gardner, to be Major.

Army nomination of Kara S. Krulewicz, to be Major.

Army nomination of Tatchie O. Manso, to be Major.

Army nomination of Eduardo Olvera, to be Major.

Army nomination of Francisco Rincon, to be Major.

Army nomination of Wallace W. Rollins, to be Major.

Army nomination of Taylor S. Schenck, to be Major.

Army nomination of William D. Swenson, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of James M. Stephens, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Carlos T. Jackson, to be Colonel.

Navy nomination of Michael J. Tagaloa, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Patcho N. Santiago, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Bryan A. Boldon, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Michael D. Cribs, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Brackery L. Battle, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Joel D. Myers, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Bryan M. Allred and ending with Kendra M. Yates, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Mario D. Adame and ending with Anthony M. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with William H. Abbott and ending with Ruben B. Zweban, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Kelly W. Agha and ending with Amy L. Younger, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Bradley E. Cherry and ending with Neil W. Whitesell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew A. Stroup, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Benjamin T. Anderson and ending with Matthew A. Stroup, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Nick Avila and ending with Athanasios R. Varvatzis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Michael A. Abell and ending with Austin C. West, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Jason C. Abell and ending with James M. Zweifel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Garrett L. Adams and ending with Iris P. Wood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nomination of Joseph L. Coffey, to be Captain.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. ERNST (for herself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2722. A bill to prohibit agencies from using Federal funds for publicity or propaganda purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2723. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reduce drug storages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. JONES):

S. 2724. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to exclude the audits of privately held, non-custody brokers and dealers that are in good standing from certain requirements under title I of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. Tester, Ms. McCaskill, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 2725. A bill to modify the procedures for loan guarantees provided for Indian housing,
and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. Wyden):
S. 2720. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. Sanders):
S. 2727. A bill to reduce spending on nuclear weapons and related defense spending and to prohibit the procurement and deployment of low-yield nuclear weapons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HALEY:
S. 2728. A bill to establish a Department of Homeland Security counterintelligence vetting task force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. Risch):
S. 2729. A bill to require Federal agencies to report to Congress on non-compliance with the requirements applicable to the Office of Small Business and Disadvantaged Business Utilization of the Federal agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. PETERS:
S. 2730. A bill to establish and ensure an inclusive transparent Drone Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURDOCH:
S. 2731. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. BENNET:
S. 2732. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Peira, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. JONES, and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 2733. A bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):
S. 2734. A bill to provide a duplication of benefits fix for Sandy CDBG-DR recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS
S. 117
At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 131
At the request of Ms. MURkowski, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 206
At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. King) were added as cosponsors of S. 206, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the male telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 285
At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 479
At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 521
At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 636
At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 636, a bill to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section.

S. 642
At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 652
At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) were added as cosponsors of S. 652, a bill to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes.

S. 670
At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. King) were added as cosponsors of S. 670, a bill to make daylight savings time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 696
At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. King) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 890
At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer the National Women's Memorial Park to the National Park Service.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senators from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 948, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 988
At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1007, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, and to strengthen penalties for violations of the Act.

S. 1032
At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1119
At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. King) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1119, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals.

S. 1438
At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1438, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

S. 1703
At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) and the Senator from New Hampshire...
At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1723, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account.

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1757, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1781, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2020 through 2022 to provide assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through bilateral compacts to increase protection of women and children in their homes and communities and reduce female homicides, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1817, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve nutritional and other program requirements relating to purchases of locally produced food.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to secure the rights of public employees to organize, act collectively, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2003, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to designate a 3-digit dialing code for veterans in crisis.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2166, a bill to designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2216, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2446, a bill to provide certain coverage of audiologist services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions related to the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2565, a bill to establish a Global Climate Change Resilience Strategy, to authorize the admission of climate-displaced persons, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) 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.

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2599, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide assistance to manage farmer and rancher stress and for the mental health of individuals in rural areas, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2603, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to end the immigrant visa backlog, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2641, a bill to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2663, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments to small transit intensive cities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, a bill to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives by investing in effective violence reduction initiatives.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2691, a bill to establish the position of Ombudsman for Border and Immigration Enforcement Related Concerns in the Department of Homeland Security.

At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 59, a joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress on the precipitous withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Syria and Afghanistan, and Turkey’s unprovoked incursion into Syria.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 73, a resolution calling on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to immediately release Saudi Women’s Rights activists and respect the fundamental rights of all Saudi citizens.

At the request of Mr. MCconnell, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2599, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide assistance to manage farmer and rancher stress and for the mental health of individuals in rural areas, and for other purposes.
At the request of Mr. McCauley, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1129 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1129
At the request of Ms. Cantwell, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1003 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1003
At the request of Ms. Smith, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Menendez), the Senator from California (Ms. Feinstein), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1044 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1044
At the request of Ms. Smith, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1133 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1133
At the request of Mr. Heinrich, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1122 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1122
At the request of Mr. Cramer, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Johnson) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1113 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1113
At the request of Mr. Peters, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1182 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1182
At the request of Ms. Collins, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1151 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1151
At the request of Ms. Smith, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1013 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1013
At the request of Mrs. Feinstein, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1199 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1199
At the request of Mr. Totten, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. King) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1133 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1133
At the request of Ms. Smith, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1129 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1129
At the request of Mr. Toomey, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1129 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3055, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
By Ms. Collins (for herself and Ms. Smith):
S. 2723. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reduce drug shortages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. Collins. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my colleague from Minnesota, Senator Tina Smith, to help prevent drug shortages. Our legislation is in the support of the American Hospital Association, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, Premier, and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices.

I often hear from patients, pharmacists, and physicians who find themselves caught in the middle of a drug shortage, with very little certainty of when the problem might be resolved. For example, Wayne is a kidney and bladder cancer patient who called my Portland office about a shortage of BCG. Wayne received several treatments, went into remission, and then was told that additional treatments that his doctor recommended due to this shortage. Wayne sees his physician every 90 days, but he lives with the constant fear that his bladder cancer could return, and the time and uncertainty between his appointments weigh heavily on him.

I have also heard from patients living with a rare immunological disorder called Mast Cell Activation Syndrome who were affected by an IV Benadryl—diphenhydramine—shortage, as well as an Epi-pen shortage. One of these patients, a former nurse, spoke about the helplessness her family felt in trying to manage the shortage and was incredulous that shortages like these could be happening in a country like ours. She said, ‘‘I am in charge of a kind of person, but I cannot fix this.’’

Physicians and hospitals try their best to manage these shortages behind the scenes but are understandably frustrated. Drug shortages add $200 million a year to U.S. drug costs and $216 million a year to U.S. drug costs and $216 million a year in increased labor costs. One of Maine’s largest health systems reports that they address approximately two new impactful shortages a week and have had to commit 3.5 unbudgeted full time employees to address them.

Another health system was experiencing 11 critical shortages and 30 less critical, ongoing shortages. For one drug, the hospital pharmacist was able to procure a supply of the drug in shortage but had to switch to a more expensive product at ten times the cost.

Our legislation, the Mitigating Emergency Drug Shortages Act of 2019, takes several steps to help FDA manage drug shortages. In the event of a likely drug shortage, our legislation gives FDA the authority to prioritize...
review of abbreviated new drug applications and manufacturing inspections. It also improves the timely and effective coordination between those conducting manufacturing inspections and the FDA Office of Drug Shortages.

Our bill strengthens reporting requirements for pharmaceutical companies to disclose the root causes and expected duration of shortages. It also requires manufacturers to have contingency and redundancy plans to ensure the availability of essential medications. This is critical as we learn the lessons from Hurricane Maria in 2017 in Puerto Rico. Approximately 10 percent of drugs prescribed in the United States are manufactured in Puerto Rico.

Our bill also requires the Departments of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a risk assessment of national security threats associated with the importation of domestic drug capacity and capability for the manufacturing and distribution of certain critical drugs, their active pharmaceutical ingredients—APIs—and associated pharmaceutical intermediates for prevention or administration. Today, China and India are the world's largest suppliers of active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Finally, our legislation requires the Secretary to develop recommendations to incentivize manufacturers to enter the market for shortages as well as improve consumer notification of drug shortages.

I thank Senator Smith for joining me in this effort to help combat this stubborn and persistent problem for patients and physicians. I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption.

Thank you.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2731. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for 58 years, the Congress has passed the National Defense Authorization Act with large bipartisan margins, and I believe we are going to do so again this year. In fact, we must. If it were up to me, it would have already been done by now.

People have to realize that this is the most dangerous year in a row. It is the one that we have to do. We have to do it by the end of the year—and that is the end of December—or we are not going to fund our military. I mean, that is how serious it is.

I will now be working with my colleagues in the House and the Senate to get this done. I am going to say that again because there is an ugly rumor out there to the contrary. We are still working to get a comprehensive bill done. We are going to keep working on it.

It is even more important because of what happened over the weekend. Our brave Special Operations forces successfully executed a dangerous mission to get ISIS leader al-Baghdadi, and it was successful. It was the right call by President Trump to bring down one of the most dangerous terrorists the world has ever seen, and it was successful.

It also underscored the importance of the annual Defense authorization bill. There is no better time to pass an NDAA—that is the national defense authorization bill—that puts our service-members and families first than after a perilous operation demonstrating the bravery, service, and sacrifice of our troops, because it took a lot of people to pull this off. But to ensure that we give the men and women in the Armed Forces the tools they need to fight and win no matter what, we are filing a "skinny bill" today. Let me explain what that is.

We have to have a defense authorization. It has to happen. It is one that has happened in row. It has to happen. It has happened for 58 years in a row. If it has happened for 58 years in a row, it is going to continue to happen. We all know that.

The problem with that is, everybody knows it has to pass. Consequently, people put more and more things on the bill, and many of the things have nothing to do with the military because they know the bill is going to pass. What happens is, then they defer everything in there, and consequently there are so many people lined up with different things they want to put on the Defense authorization bill that we have not been able to come to an agreement.

This has happened in the past. What happens is, in the event of the Defense authorization bill—this would be the largest bill of the year, the most significant bill of the year—if, for some reason, we are not able to pass it, military operations stop.

A skinny bill is simple. It extends necessary authorities for military operations, takes care of servicemembers and their families, and authorizes essential military construction and acquisition programs. That is it. That is one paragraph. That is all it does. That part has to pass. At the end of the day, that is what we have to do by the end of this year, by the end of December.

There is this old document that nobody reads anymore; it is called the Constitution. If you read that, it says what we are really supposed to be doing, what is really important.

I say to my friend from West Virginia, out of all the things we do, sometimes they are not all that significant. This is that significant. That is why this is important. It is going to pass. We ought to make sure it passes.

By introducing this as a skinny bill, it takes out everything that has nothing to do with the military, and we just pass the bill to take care of our troops. Here on Capitol Hill, the NDAA—National Defense Authorization Act—is an institution itself, the last bill of its kind, an authorization bill that passes every year.

We always have disagreements within and between parties on the future of national security, but we have always managed to overcome those divisions to support our military. This year is not going to be any different.

Earlier this year, I worked with my Democratic colleague Senator Jack Reed to produce a bipartisan NDAA in the Senate. We did that. We spent hours on it, but we ultimately passed it out of committee almost unanimously—Democrats and Republicans alike. We brought it to the floor, and we passed it.

It is not the bill where Jack Reed and Jim Inhofe would necessarily agree on every aspect, but these are tough decisions, and we had to make decisions, so we made decisions. Consequently, when it came up to the full Senate, it passed by an 86 to 6. Only six people opposed it in this entire body.

The same has to be true with any kind of agreement on fiscal year 2020 NDAA. That bill would require 60 votes in the Senate. It had 48 Republican votes in the House. The bill that came out of the House, from the House committee on the Defense authorization bill, didn't have one Republican voting for it. Obviously, it has to have Republicans in the House voting for it. It has to pass by a 60-percent margin. There is no other way it can be done.

We continue making progress. We know we can't pass a bill with as many partisan provisions as we saw in the House bill—things like unprecedented restrictions on the President's ability to defend America, defend the Nation, and putting social agenda above the needs of our troops. Unfortunately, the same problem that is slowing progress on the FY 2019 NDAA is now stalling the appropriations process.

When I supported the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, I argued that a lower topline was acceptable if it got support for our military. This agreement didn't have one Republican and the defense funding, but now we are facing a delayed NDAA and the real possibility of a full-year continuing resolution. This is unacceptable.

The Department of Defense has never operated under a full-year CR. A CR is a continuing resolution. A CR would simply be disastrous. What it says is, we are going to do the same thing for the military and the rest of the government as we did last year. Well, the House has changed the programs that have to be authorized and have to be voted on. It would be a huge waste of taxpayers' money if we were unable to get this thing done.

We know a full-year CR would press pause on hundreds of weapons programs and leave tens of billions of dollars in the wrong places.

We had a meeting where we had General Martin testify. He is the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. For the Army alone, he said we would be looking at delays to new-start programs and increased costs of 37 programs, totaling $7 billion. That is according to
the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. That is the Army alone. The total failure is going to be somewhere around $22 billion that would be lost.

All said, this would put work rebuilding our military even further behind and waste enormous amounts of taxpayer dollars.

The national defense strategy—that is this book. This is kind of interesting because this book was put together by Democrats and Republicans, all with expertise, and a background in the military, and a huge chunk of Democrats and Republicans, and they all agreed that this was going to be our defense strategy. They have a National Defense Strategy Committee. That national defense strategy provided a clear vision of the serious challenges it faces and the necessity of “urgent change at significant scale.” That is what Secretary Mattis stated.

Failure to pass an NDAA and accepting a full-year CR would stop our Nation’s strategy in its tracks. It would undo all the good work we have done with Secretary Esper, the President of the United States, the Pentagon, as well as our partners, to follow the recommendations of the NDS Committee.

This is not just inside-the-beltway gridlock. The world is watching. Our allies and our enemies are watching. They want to know if America is serious about its role in the world and its own national security.

Failure to pass basic legislation on a timely basis to support our military sends a terrible signal that undermines our national security. Think of the signal that sends to our troops who are out there risking their lives to defend us here at home.

Caring for our troops is about the only thing anyone in this town agrees on. If we lose that bipartisan support, it will be hard to get it back, and we need it more than ever.

China and Russia. This is interesting because we didn’t used to be that concerned about them. I would say that during the Obama administration, his priorities were not the same. He was very honest about it. He had other priorities. So we didn’t do the job we should have done at that time for our military.

China and Russia are not waiting around for us to end our disagreements with each other.

Under a Democrat administration, under Obama, our military funding decreased by 25 percent. Between the years of 2010 and 2015, we decreased the amount of funding for our military in that administration by 25 percent. Meanwhile, China had increased spending by 50 percent over the last decade. Think about it. China increased its spending by 83 percent, and we reduced ours by 25 percent.

They are continuing a campaign of aggression, building islands in the South China Sea. Our allies living in the South China Sea are watching what China is doing there and around the world and what we are not doing. They have come to the conclusion that a third world war may be imminent, and they are not sure whose side they want to be on.

This chart I am showing right here is a picture of hypersonic weapons. These are state-of-the-art weapons. These are missiles that travel at five times the speed of sound. This is something we were ahead on during the beginning of the previous administration, and we are now behind. Right now, China is parading dozens of massive hypersonic missiles. We have not even built one yet.

There they are. That is a picture I haven’t seen until today. Those are hypersonic weapons, and they were on Tiananmen Square on October 1, 2019. A lot of people didn’t know that they are—they have not just caught up with us; they have passed us. We haven’t built one yet, and there they are.

People don’t realize where China and Russia are. That is China, but Russia continues to develop new and dangerous nuclear weapons, while it expands its influence in the Middle East and elsewhere.

I have no doubt that a united America can face these challenges. I fear that a divided America—a country that compromises to get a bill allows defending America to be a partisan issue—cannot.

The path to a final defense bill is, as it always has been, bipartisan. The Defense authorization bill has historically been bipartisan, allowing both parties to sit down and work together. Failure to pass legislation on a timely basis to support our military sends a terrible signal that undermines our national security. Think of the signal that sends to our troops who are out there risking their lives to defend us here at home.

We have been working on this bill for a long period of time. Normally, it does not take Congress to have gotten it down to what they call the four leaders. I am one of those four leaders who have been trying to put this together, but we have not been able to get it done.

What we are doing with this bill is we are putting the bill up. We are going to get it on the floor so we can be ready. Here is the problem: If we don’t do it, we can sit around and do nothing through the month of November, and when December gets here, all of a sudden, we are going to be faced with the fact that we are going to have some bill that takes care of just the military, not all the other stuff that is on the bill. To do this, you have to pass it out of committee. You have to take it to the floor of the Senate. You have to pass it out. Then, if you get that far, the House has to do the same thing. Then we go into conference, and we confer on this thing.

Obviously, that is going to take not just days but weeks. So to prepare for the unlikely possibility that we don’t get together, we do have the skeleton bill that we are going to introduce. I am going to introduce it an hour from now. It is the only thing we can do right now to make sure we can take care of our troops if we are not able to get the comprehensive bill completed. That is the reason for it. I will be introducing it.

Every provision in that bill is a provision to enhance our military efforts, to pay our troops, and to take care of our country the way we have been able to do in the past.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

**SA 1213. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOPLOW, Mr. GARDENIA, and Ms. MASTO)** submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**SA 1214. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN)** submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**SA 1215. Ms. MCsALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA)** submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**SA 1216. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. POEY]** submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**SA 1217. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.**

**SA 1218. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BURK)** submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**SA 1219. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.**

**SA 1220. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. FRANKEN)** submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**SA 1221. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.**

**SA 1222. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.**

**SA 1223. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASHY, Mr. DUREIN, Mr. MENinden, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCONTSHE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. CASSIDY** submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**SA 1224. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER)** submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. Shelby to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.
TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1123. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1226. Mr. MARKNEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1227. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1228. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1229. Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JONES, and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1230. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1231. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1232. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1233. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1234. Ms. McSALLY (for herself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1235. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1236. Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1237. Mr. HIRONUMI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1238. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. JONES, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1239. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1240. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill S. 916, to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

SA 1213. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBuchar, Mr. GARDNER, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITHE — TRAVEL PROMOTION

SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Brand USA Extension Act".

SEC. 02. THE CORPORATION FOR TRAVEL PROMOTION

Subsection (b) of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 231(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) by inserting "or foodservice" after "restaurant";

(B) in clause (v), by inserting "; such as outdoor recreation or theme parks" before the semicolon;

(C) in clause (viii), by inserting "commercial or private" before "passenger air sector";

(2) in paragraph (5)(A)—

(A) in clause (iii), by inserting "speaking conventions, sales missions," after "trade shows;

(B) in clause (iv), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in clause (v), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and";

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(vii) to promote tourism to the United States through digital media, online platforms, and other appropriate medium;"; and

(3) in paragraph (7)(C), by striking "3 days" and inserting "5 days".

SEC. 03. ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.

Subsection (c) of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 231(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "$500,000" and inserting "$450,000"; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (K);

(B) in subparagraph (H)(iii), by striking "and" at the end; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (H)(ii) the following:

"(I) a list of countries the Corporation identifies as emerging markets for tourism to the United States;"

"(J) a description of the efforts the Corporation has made to promote tourism to rural areas of the United States; and"

SEC. 04. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR BRAND USA

Subsection (d) of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 231(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "2020" and inserting "2027";

(2) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), by striking "70 percent" and inserting "50 percent"; and

(3) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking "2020" and inserting "2027".

SEC. 05. PERFORMANCE PLAN.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Corporation for Travel Promotion shall make the performance metrics established pursuant to subsection (f)(1)(A) of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2313(f)(1)(A)) publicly available on the website of the Corporation.

SEC. 06. ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FEE INCREASE.


SA 1214. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place under the heading "HORSEFLESH" under the heading "Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies" under the heading "Veterans Affairs" under the heading "Veterans Health Care" under the heading "Veterans Health Care Services" under the heading "Veterans Health Care Services (including for health care for female veterans pilot training competitive grant program)"

SA 1215. Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 311, line 2, insert "Provided further. That not less than 90 percent of net savings made available as a result of enactment of this Act, the Chief of the Forest Service shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the Senate a report detaling the status of efforts to accelerate forest ecosystem restoration under the Four Forest Restoration Initiative": after ""7303(f)"".

SA 1216. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

"SEC. 7. (a) There is appropriated $600,000 to carry out section 6306 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 22913)."

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under this Act to the Department of Agriculture under the heading "OFFICE OF THE CIVIL FINANCIAL OFFICER" shall be reduced by $600,000.

SA 1217. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELDY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place under the heading "HORSEFLESH" under the heading "Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies" under the heading "Veterans Health Care" under the heading "Veterans Health Care Services" under the heading "Veterans Health Care Services (including for health care for female veterans pilot training competitive grant program)"
SA 1218. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BUCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading “ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE” in title I shall be increased by $1,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be for surveillance, prevention, and research relating to Eastern equine encephalitis in impacted States.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading “OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER” shall be reduced by $1,000,000.

SA 1219. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 223, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

SEC. 7. (a) Notwithstanding subsections (d) and (e) of section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c) or any other provision of law, beginning in crop year 2020, tobacco shall be an eligible agricultural commodity for the Market Facilitation Program conducted pursuant to that section.

SA 1222. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place under the heading “OPERATIONS” under the heading “FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION” in title I of division D, insert the following: “Provided further, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by $100,000 for each day after December 31, 2019, that the guidance describing how a pilot may share flight expenses with passengers in a manner consistent with Federal law, including regulations, as required under section 515 of Public Law 115–254.”

SA 1223. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

(a) There is appropriated $5,000,000 to carry out section 222 of the Domestic Security Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 25671), to remain available until expended for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided under the heading “OPERATIONS” in title I of division D, insert the following: “Provided further, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by $2,000,000.

SA 1224. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 338, line 22, at the appropriate place insert the following: “Provided further, That the amount appropriated but not less than $3,700,000 shall be made available for the Women’s History Initiative.”
SA 1228. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division C, insert the following:

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS AND NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDORS

SEC. 4. Section 512 of Title V of Division J of P.L. 108–447 is amended by striking ‘‘on the date that is 15 years after the date that funds are first made available for this title.’’ and inserting ‘‘after September 30, 2022.’’

(b) Section 608 of Title VI of Division J of P.L. 108–447 is amended by striking ‘‘the expiration of the 15-year period beginning on the date that funds are first made available for this title.’’ and inserting ‘‘September 30, 2022.’’

(c) Section 109 of Title I of Public Law 103–448, as amended by Public Law 111–11, title VIII section 8201(c), is further amended by striking ‘‘$15,000,000’’ and inserting ‘‘$17,000,000’’.

(d) Section 810(a)(1) of Title VIII of Division B of Appendix D of Public Law 106–554, as amended by Public Law 115–51, Division G, Title I, section 115(b), is further amended by striking ‘‘$12,000,000’’ and inserting ‘‘$14,000,000’’.

SA 1229. Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. STabenow, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Tester) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as ‘‘Secretary’’) may use for the cost of loan guarantees not more than $30,000,000 to carry out the interest rate reduction program established under section 351 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1999).

(b)(1) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may advertise to current borrowers the process and opportunity by which a borrower may, pursuant to section 331(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)), request deferral of principal and interest in order to forgo foreclosure.

(2) The Secretary shall submit a quarterly report describing the number of requests under paragraph (1) submitted, approved, and denied to—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(c) For purposes of providing equitable relief under section 360 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Credit Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1999c–2) (as added by section 2(b)(1)(A) of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1951n–1)), the Secretary may consider a good faith claim of a borrower of misunderstanding due to ambiguous or unclear guidance, or a change in normal, preexisting procedures, to advertise to current borrowers the process and opportunity by which a borrower may, pursuant to section 331(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)), request deferral of principal and interest in order to forgo foreclosure.

SA 1230. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—FAIR COMPENSATION FOR LOW-WAGE CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES ACT OF 2019

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ‘‘Fair Compensation for Low-Wage Contractor Employees Act of 2019’’.

SEC. 2. APPROPRIATION.

There is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for each Federal agency subject to the lapse in appropriations that began on or about December 22, 2018, for adjustments in the price of contracts of such agency under section 3.
amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division C, insert the following:

**PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES FOR SURVEYING, TELECOMMUNICATIONS OR MAINTENANCE, OR MANAGING TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE ON FEDERAL LAND**

SEC. 4. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prohibit a telecommunications provider from using an unmanned aerial vehicle for surveying, maintaining, or managing telecommunications infrastructure on Federal land.

SA 1232. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 948 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division D, insert the following:

**SEC. 7041. AMERICAN MINERS ACT OF 2019.**

(a) TRANSFERS TO 1974 UMWA PENSION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (i) of section 422 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking "$900,000,000" and inserting "$750,000,000";

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—"

"(A) CALCULATION.—If the dollar limitation specified in paragraph (3)(A) exceeds the aggregate amount required to be transferred under paragraphs (1) and (2) for a fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer an additional amount equal to the difference between such dollar limitation and such aggregate amount to the trustees of the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan to pay benefits required under that plan.

"(B) CESSION OF TRANSFERS.—The transfers described in subparagraph (A) shall cease as of the first fiscal year beginning after the first plan year for which the funded percentage (as defined in section 402(g)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan is at least 100 percent.

"(C) PROHIBITION ON BENEFIT INCREASES, ETC.—During a fiscal year in which the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan transfers required under subparagraph (A), no amount of such plan which increases the liabilities of the plan by reason of any increase in benefits, or any change in the rate at which benefits become nonforfeitable under the plan may be adopted unless the amendment is required as a condition of qualification under part I of subchapter D of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"(D) TREATMENT OF TRANSFERS FOR PURPOSES OF WITHHOLDING AND EROSA.—The amount of any transfer made under subparagraph (A) and any earnings attributable thereto shall be disregarded in determining the unfunded vested benefits of the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan and the allocation of such unfunded vested benefits to an employer for purposes of determining the employer's withdrawal liability under section 4201 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

"(E) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS.—A transfer under subparagraph (A) shall not be made for a fiscal year unless the persons that are obligated to contribute to the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan on the date of such transfer are required to make the contributions at rates that are no less than those in effect on the date which is 30 days before the end of the first plan year for which such contributions are made."
before the date of enactment of the 
Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural 
 Development, Food and Drug Administration, 
Interior, Environment, Military Construc 
tion, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and 
Housing and Urban Development Appropri 

'(F) ENHANCED ANNUAL REPORTING.—
'(1) PLAN MAINTENANCE. —Not later than the 90th 
day of each plan year beginning after the 
date of enactment of the Commerce, Justice, 
Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, En 
vironment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and 
Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020, the 
trustees of the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan shall file with the Secretary of the 
Treasury or the Secretary's delegate and the 
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation a 
report (including appropriate documentation 
and actuarial certifications from the plan 
actuary, as required by the Secretary of the 
Treasury or the Secretary's delegate) that contains—

'(i) whether the plan is in endangered or 
critical status under section 305 of the 
Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 
1974 and section 432 of the Internal Revenue 
Code of 1986 as of the first day of such plan 
year;

'(ii) the funded percentage (as defined in 
section 432(h)(2) of such Code) as of the first 
day of such plan year, and the underlying 
actuarial value of assets and liabilities taken 
into account in determining such percent 
age;

'(iii) the market value of the assets of the 
plan as of the last day of the plan year pre 
ceding such plan year;

'(IV) the total value of all contributions 
made during the plan year preceding such 
plan year;

'(V) the total value of all benefits paid 
during the plan year preceding such plan 
year;

'(VI) cash flow projections for such plan 
year and either the 6 or 10 succeeding 
plan years, at the election of the trustees, and 
the assumptions relied upon in making such 
projections;

'(VII) funding standard account projec 
tions for such plan year and the 9 succeeding 
plan years, and the assumptions relied upon in 
making such projections;

'(VIII) the total value of all investment 
gains or losses during the plan year pre 
ceding such plan year;

'(IX) any significant reduction in the num 
ber of active participants during the plan 
year preceding such plan year, and the 
reason for such reduction;

'(X) a list of employers that withdrew 
from the plan in the plan year preceding such 
plan year, and the resulting reduction in 
contributions;

'(XI) a list of employers that paid with 
drawal liability to the plan during the plan 
year preceding such plan year and, for each 
employer, the amount of withdrawal 
liability paid, the annual payment 
amount, and the number of years remaining 
in the payment schedule with respect to such 
withdrawal liability payment;

'(XII) any material changes to benefits, 
accrual rates, or contribution rates during 
the plan year preceding such plan year;

'(XIII) any beneficial increase or decrease 
in the plan year preceding such plan 
year having a material effect on liabilities of 
the plan;

'(XIV) details regarding any funding 
improvement plan or rehabilitation plan 
and updates to such plan;

'(XV) the number of participants and 
beneficiaries during the plan year preceding 
such plan year who are active participants, 
the number of participants and beneficiaries 
in pay status, and the number of terminated 
vested participants and beneficiaries;

'(XVI) the information contained on the 
most recent annual funding notice submitted 
by the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan to the Em 
ployee Retirement Income Security Act of 
1974;

'(XVII) the information contained on the 
most recent report of Department Form 5500 
of the plan; and

'(XVIII) copies of the plan document and 
amendments, other retirement benefit or 
annuity plan, and the operating expenses 
and contributions during the plan year 
preceding such plan year, and the resulting 
reduction in the annual payment 
amount, and the number of years remaining 
in the payment schedule with respect to such 
withdrawal liability payment;

'(1) ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION.—The report 
required under clause (i) shall be submitted 
electronically.

'(2) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Sec 
retary of the Treasury or the Secretary's 
delegate shall share the information in the 
report under clause (i) with the Secretary of 
Labor.

'(3) PENALTY.—Any failure to file the re 
port required under clause (i) on or before 
the due date shall be treated as a failure to file a report required to 
be filed under section 6651(a) of the Internal 
Revenue Code of 1986, except that section 
6652(c) of such Code shall be applied with 
respect to any such failure by substituting 
'$100' for '$25'. The preceding sentence shall 
not apply if the Secretary of the Treasury or 
the Secretary's delegate determines that 
reasonable diligence has been exercised by the 
trustees of such plan in attempting to 
timely file such report.

'(G) 1974 UMWA PENSION PLAN DEFINED.— 
For purposes of this paragraph, the term

'1974 UMWA Pension Plan' has the meaning 
given in section 9701(a)(3) of the In 
ternal Revenue Code of 1986, but without re 

due to the limitation on participation to in 
dividuals who retired in 1976 and there 

'(1) I N GENERAL .—The amendments made 
by this subsection shall apply to plan years 
beginning after December 31, 2019.

'(2) TEMPORARY INCREASE INAPPLICABLE 
PERIOD.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the 
term 'temporary increase inapplicable pe 
riod' means—

'(A) the period beginning on January 
2019, and ending on December 31, 2019, and 
'(B) the period beginning on the earlier of 

'(i) January 1, 2020, or

'(ii) the first January 1 after 2027 as of 
which there is—

'(I) no balance of repayable advances made 
to the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund, and 

'(II) no unpaid interest on such ad 

'(1) ELECTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amend 
ments made by this subsection shall apply to sales 
after December 31, 2019.

SA 1239. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amended 
intended to be proposed to amendment 
SA 948 proposed by Mr. 
SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, making 
appropriations for the Departments of 
Commerce and Justice, Science, and 
Related Agencies for the fiscal year 
ending September 30, 2020, and for 
other purposes; which was ordered to 
it on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of di 
vision B, insert the following:

'(a) SEC. 407 of the Federal 
Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387(f)(a) is amended)
(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

"(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS.—Beginning 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, may, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, issue regulations setting forth standards on the permissible design of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and issue guidance for manufacturers to implement such standards. Such standards shall—

"(A) prohibit refillable components or parts;

"(B) prohibit any electronic nicotine delivery system designed to look like combustible tobacco products, including vapes, vaporizers, vape pens, and atomizers; and

"(C) require each electronic nicotine delivery system and its components and parts to be tamper-proof.”.

(b) (1) Section 900 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (22) as paragraphs (10) through (24); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

"(8) ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS.—

"(A) In general.—The term ‘electronic nicotine delivery system’—

"(i) means noncombustible tobacco products, including vaporizers, e-cigarettes (also known as ‘e-cigarettes’ or ‘e-cigs’), and e-cigarettes that deliver an aerosolized e-liquid that may contain nicotine, as well as varying compositions of flavors, propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin, and other ingredients; and

"(ii) includes components and parts, such as e-liquids, tanks, cartridges, pods, wicks, and atomizers.

"(B) COMPONENTS AND PARTS.—The term ‘components and parts’ with respect to an electronic nicotine delivery system, means the objects intended or reasonably expected to be used with, or for, the human consumption of, a tobacco product that are not accessories.

"(9) E-LIQUID.—The term ‘e-liquid’ means liquid nicotine, nicotine containing liquids (including a concentration of 5 percent or more of nicotine that is a characteristic flavoring or coloring, flavorings, or other ingredients), and liquids that do not contain nicotine or other material made or derived from tobacco, but that are intended or reasonably expected to be used with or for the human consumption of a tobacco product.

(2) Section 5701 of the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 (25 U.S.C. 4408(1)) is amended by striking "section 900(18)" and inserting "section 900(20)".

SUC. (a) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other heads of appropriate agencies, as the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall determine, shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and publicly post on an internet website, a report on the public health risks of tobacco use that includes—

(1) the public health implications of the use of tobacco products, with a focus on electronic nicotine delivery systems and other alternative tobacco products;

(2) emerging trends in tobacco use, including the use of tobacco flavors and new tobacco delivery systems;

(3) updates on the public health awareness campaign authorized by subsection (b); and

(4) recommendations for Congress.

(b) The Secretary shall conduct a public awareness campaign to educate the public about the public health implications of using electronic nicotine delivery systems which would be defined in section 900 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387).

(c) To carry out subsection (b), for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, there shall be transferred to the Secretary, from the General Fund of the Treasury, the lesser of—

(1) the amount equal to the amount collected under section 5701(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 during the previous fiscal year; or

(2) $115,000,000.

SUC. (a) Section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking “and roll-your-own tobacco” and inserting “roll-your-own tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems, and e-liquids”;

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “or roll-your-own tobacco” each place it appears and inserting “roll-your-own tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery systems, and e-liquids”;

(3) the amendments made by this section shall not apply to tobacco removed after the date which is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act;

SUC. (a) Any person who is not the manufacturer, the importer, or the person who bore the ultimate burden of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be liable for the tax imposed by paragraph (1) if—

(1) internal revenue taxes have been determined, or customs duties liquidated, with respect to such article before such date pursuant to a request made under the 1st proviso of section 3(a) of such Act, or

(2) such article is held on or before such date that is 120 days after the applicable date.

Notwithstanding the Act of June 18, 1894 (commonly known as the Foreign Trade Zone Act, 48 Stat. 966, 19 U.S.C. 81a et seq.), or any other provision of law, any article which is located in a foreign trade zone on any tax increase date shall not be subject to the tax imposed by paragraph (1) if—

(1) the internal revenue taxes have been determined, or customs duties liquidated, with respect to such article before such date pursuant to a request made under the 1st proviso of section 3(a) of such Act, or

(2) such article is held on such date under the supervision of an officer of the United States Customs and Revenue Protection of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the 2d proviso of such section 3(a), and

(3) Rules similar to the rules of section 506(e)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(c) All provisions of law, including penalties, applicable with respect to the taxes imposed by section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall, insofar as applicable, not be inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection, apply to the floor stocks taxes imposed by paragraph (1), to the same extent as if such taxes were imposed by such section 5701. The Secretary shall not seek to recover the tax imposed by paragraph (1) from any person who bore the ultimate burden of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) if the person who bore the ultimate burden of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) as the person

Senator Smith
to whom a credit or refund under such provisions may be allowed or made.

(c) For purposes of this section—

(1) Any term used in this section which is also used in section 5701 or 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall have the same meaning as such term has in such section.

(2) The term “applicable date” means the date on which the Secretary or the Treasury applies to the Secretary for such payments in a form, manner, and time specified by the Secretary.

(3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate.

SA 1240. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 916, to improve Federal respect for the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Finance; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Healthy Maternal Opportunities Matter Act of 2019” or the “Healthy MOM Act”.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR MATERNAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Section 501 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) In addition to the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) and retained under section 502(b)(1)(A), out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary $200,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, to support increased efforts to improve maternal and child health in accordance with which is described in subparagraphe (A) through (E) of section 501(a)(3).”.

SEC. 3. MEDICAID DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MATERNAL HEALTH CARE IN UNSERVED AREAS.

Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(bb) Demonstration Project to Increase Access to Maternal Health Care in Unserved Areas.—

“(1) In General.—In addition to the payments provided under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide for payments to States for activities to improve access to maternal health care and prevent maternal mortality in unserved areas (including rural areas) in the manner described in paragraph (5).

“(2) Permissible Use of Funds.—The following are examples of State activities for which funds provided under this subsection may be used:

“(A) Developing and implementing innovative reimbursement models for providers of maternal health care services.

“(B) Increasing maternal health professional recruitment efforts.

“(C) Expanding access to telemedicine for women with high-risk pregnancies.

“(3) Application; Terms and Conditions.—

“(A) In General.—No payments shall be made to a State under this subsection unless the State applies to the Secretary in such payments in a form, manner, and time specified by the Secretary.

“(B) Terms and Conditions.—Such payments under such terms and conditions consistent with this subsection as the Secretary prescribes.

“(C) Annual Report.—Payment to a State under this subsection is conditioned on the State submitting to the Secretary an annual report on the activities supported by such payment. Such report shall include information on—

“(i) the specific uses of such payment;

“(ii) an assessment of quality improvements and clinical outcomes resulting from such activities; and

“(iii) estimates of cost savings resulting from such activities.

“(4) Duration.—(A) In general.—The payment shall be made under this subsection after fiscal year 2024.

“(B) Limitation on Funds.—The total amount of payments made under this subsection shall not exceed $2,500,000,000 for fiscal years 2020 through 2024. This subsection constitutes budget authority in advance of appropriations Acts and represents the obligation of the Secretary to provide for the payment of amounts provided under this subsection.

SEC. 4. REGULAR FMAP APPLIED IN CASE OF CERTAIN MEDICAID EXPANSION INDIVIDUALS.

Section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “subject to subsection (a),” after “Notwithstanding subsection (b),”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) Exception.—With respect to amounts expended by a State described in paragraph (1) for medical assistance for items and services furnished on or after January 1, 2020, to a newly eligible individual described in such clause (VIII) of section 1902(a)(30)(A)(i) who is an inmate in a public institution and is a patient in a medical institution, paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to such amount expended for items and services and the Federal medical assistance percentage for such State under subsection (b) shall apply with respect to such amounts expended for such items and services.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in open session to consider the nominations of Ms. Lisa W. Hershman to be Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense; Mr. Dana S. Deasy to be Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense; and Mr. Robert J. Sander to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at 10 a.m., in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building. The Committee will hold a Full Committee Hearing titled “Aviation Safety and the Future of Boeing’s 737 MAX.”

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 116th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, from 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m., in room SH–219 in the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a closed roundtable.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Craig Radcliffe, counsel on my staff, be permitted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Robert J. Sander to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense; and Mr. Robert J. Sander to be Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense; and Mr. Robert J. Sander to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Craig Radcliffe, counsel on my staff, be permitted floor privileges for a member of my staff, Rob Givens.

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

CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACK IN DAYTON, OHIO, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THAT TRAGEDY

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 367.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 367) condemning the horrific attack in Dayton, Ohio, and expressing support and prayers for all those impacted by that tragedy.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Craig Radcliffe, counsel on my staff, be permitted floor privileges for a member of my staff, Rob Givens.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 367) was agreed to, and that the motions to recommit and to request a Committee on Foreign Relations be agreed to, and that the resolution be printed in the Record of October 21, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”

TAIWAN ALLIES INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION ACT AND ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE ACT OF 2019

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 237, S. 1678.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1678) to express United States support for Taiwan's diplomatic alliances around the world.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
This Act may be cited as the “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.**
(a) Findings.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (Public Law 96–4) states that it is the policy of the United States “to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan”.

(2) The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 states that the United States is committed to maintaining the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic well-being, of the people on Taiwan. (Taiwan is a free, democratic and prosperous nation of 23,000,000 people and an important contributor to peace and stability around the world.)

(3) Since the election of President Tsai Ing-wen as President of Taiwan in 2016, the Government of the People’s Republic of China has intensified pressure on Taiwan. (Since 2016, the Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, the Solomon Islands, and Kiribati have severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan in favor of diplomatic relations with China.)

(4) Taiwan currently maintains full diplomatic relations with 15 nations around the world.

(5) Taiwan’s unofficial relations with the United States, including Japan, India, and other countries are of significant benefit in strengthening Taiwan’s economy and preserving its international space.

(6) President of the Republic of China, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, the sewerance of diplomatic ties with Taiwan in favor of diplomatic relations with China is “part of a series of diplomatic and military acts of coercion” by China.

(7) Taiwan’s unofficial relations with the United States, including Japan, India, and other countries are of significant benefit in strengthening Taiwan’s economy and preserving its international space.

(8) According to President Tsai Ing-wen, the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) states that—

(9) The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) states that it is United States policy “to support the maintenance of the status quo and to advance American interests and the security of Taiwan”.

(10) The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) states that—

(11) The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) states that—

(12) The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) states that—

(13) The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) states that—

The bill (S. 1678), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**REAFFIRMING THE VITAL ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN ALLIANCE IN PROMOTING PEACE, STABILITY, AND PROSPERITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION AND BEYOND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 233, S. Res. 183.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 183) reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amendment to strike the preamble, and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

Whereas the United States and Japan have a special, unbreakable bond between the two nations:

That the Senate—

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance, forged nearly six decades ago with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity, and established full diplomatic relations in 1951;

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

Whereas the United States and Japan are indispensable partners in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, improving global health, countering human trafficking and promoting human rights, assisting the victims of conflict and disaster worldwide, and contributing to global economic development;

Whereas the alliance is a testament to the ability of great nations to overcome the past and jointly work to create a more secure and prosperous future;

Whereas our two countries, coming from different cultural backgrounds, have created an active and dynamic relationship beneficial to both peoples;

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the endorsement of long-standing United States-Japan policy to pursue an active and cooperative relationship with Japan in the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409), signed into law on December
31, 2018, and the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(2) underscores the importance of the close people-to-people and cultural ties between our two nations;

(3) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and Japan; and

(4) further calls for the continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Japan in addressing global challenges that threaten the security of people everywhere in the new Reiva era of “beautiful harmony.”

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 183) was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble as amended was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 2, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

REAFFIRMING THE STRONG PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE UNITED STATES AND SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF TUNISIA IN THEIR CONTINUED PURSUIT OF DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 235, S. Res. 277.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 277) reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 277) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 17, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4334

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4334) to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and for other purposes.

Mr. CASSIDY. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive the second reading on the next legislative day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise tonight to talk about healthcare, which is an issue that obviously commands a lot of attention, but lately, frankly, not enough attention here in the Senate. I will focus, in particular, on one report that we are issuing today that will talk about one aspect of some of the problems we are having in our healthcare system, not so much a lot of Americans might not be aware of. They probably will be more aware when they hear more about the report that I have.

I think we should start from the basic premise that we have made tremendous progress in the last number of years in access to healthcare, in healthcare coverage. We know, for example, that between the years 2010, the year that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was passed, and the end of 2016—so, basically, just a matter of 6 years—something on the order of 20-plus million Americans gained health insurance coverage. We went from roughly the number of uninsured in the country being a little more than 47 million in 2010 to a little more than 27 million in 2016.

Over the course of just 6 to 7 years, 20 million fewer people were uninsured. That is a great step forward in progress on an issue where most people said there was no way you could get 20 million more people insured. Very few Americans thought that was possible until it actually happened. Unfortunately, that progress—the progress being the diminution or the reduction of the uninsured population—is, unfortunately, not just flattening out, but it is actually getting worse. The number of uninsured Americans is actually back up now. That is a giant step backward in a country that not only reduced the uninsured number by 20-plus million but provided, in the same bill, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. I think we should start from the premise that ushered in all kinds of reforms for those with insurance—those who had insurance before 2010 and those who were paying their premiums but had their lives and their coverage in the hands of insurance companies that had power over their lives, to the extent that an individual with a preexisting condition would not be treated and would not be covered because of that preexisting condition. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act changed that for tens and tens and tens of millions of Americans, in addition to the coverage gains that I just mentioned.

Just for a point of reference, I will mention the recent numbers. The Census Bureau, back in just September of this year, said—and I am quoting from a report from Kaiser Health News, by Mr. Phil Galewitz, who is talking about the census report. He said the following:

For the first time in a decade, the number of Americans without health insurance has risen—by about 2 million people in 2018—according to the annual U.S. Census Bureau report released Tuesday. This “Tuesday” means a day in September.
The Census found that 8.5 percent of the U.S. population went without medical insurance for all of 2018, up from 7.9 percent in 2017.

What he was referring to is that the Census said that the number of uninsured went up by 1.9 million people. That didn’t happen just by accident. It happened because of some of the steps taken by the administration and by those that support the administration.

We have to be focused on reversing that decline, getting the number of uninsured down, getting more Americans covered, and making sure that more Americans have basic protections.

What is particularly egregious and disturbing about this trend is that those suffering the most tend to be children. For example, in another analysis by Georgetown University, it says that 4.3 million kids were uninsured in 2018—a statistically significant increase of 500,000.

What Georgetown was telling us in that analysis is that that diminution of those who were insured or who have insurance is rising by more than 400,000 among children. So the United States of America made great strides in the mid-1960s, when the Medicaid Program was enacted into law, which helped to reduce the number of children who were uninsured and helped to reduce the number of children who did not have access to quality healthcare and ushered in a brand-new healthcare program for children and people with disabilities and seniors needing long-term care. That is the Medicaid Program. You could call it the “Kids, Seniors, and Disability Program for Healthcare.” The same country, the United States of America, then made greater progress decades later when the Children’s Health Insurance Program came into effect. It was voted on here in the 1990s with bipartisan support, sustained over time by bipartisan support, and sustained in many States by Republican and Democratic Governors. But despite the Medicaid Program and the advances for children, despite the Children’s Health Insurance Program and the advances for children, and despite the advances brought about by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the advances for children in that, now we are seeing a reversal.

Are we going to be satisfied? Are we going to say that we are the country that we want to be and that we claim to be if now we are moving backward on children’s health insurance, and 425,000 fewer children have healthcare in 2018, and that that is what we are going accessible for in the United States of America?

That is an abomination. That is a stain on our country. Anyone who is not in the business of reversing that and getting that number up—covering more children and making sure that children are covered shouldn’t be involved in any government and shouldn’t run for public office if that is what your attitude is.

The administration proposed cutting the Medicaid program that I just referred to a couple of minutes ago, the children’s disability and long-term nursing home care program—that is what Medicaid does, helps people get into nursing homes. It helps a lot of middle-class Americans pay for long-term care. It helps about 40 percent of American children with healthcare and helps a lot of children, especially children with disabilities, have the therapies, treatments, and the protections they need because they have a disability or sometimes more than one disability. That is the Medicaid program.

What does the administration want to do to the amounts—what they called the number up—1.5 trillion. No one here should support that kind of a cut, but not only do some people here support it by their silence, by their assent, many here are champions of that, strongly advocating for that kind of a cut, so we have to fight against that, too—the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

Then there is threat No. 3—No. 1 being the threat of the lawsuit, No. 2 being the threat of the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid—the third threat is the sabotage that has been undertaken from day one of the administration. On the Republican side, I would hope that someone would speak up against this. I haven’t heard much. I have been listening. I haven’t heard much about those who might claim to not be in favor of sabotage.

Here is one example of sabotage in the report I referred to earlier. We just issued this report today: “HEALTH CARE SABOTAGE ONLINE: A WARNING TO CONSUMERS.” Here is what we did: We started calling all over Pennsylvania and doing research on what was advertised for these short-term duration healthcare plans known in the vernacular here in Washington as “junk plans.” Why do we say they are junk? Well, we say that because these plans were only allowed to be in place for 3 months, but the administration changed that rule. Now, these plans are available. You can purchase a plan like this for 1 year, and then you can renew it for up to 3 years. What happens? Well, often, people are deceived into signing up for plans that don’t have the protections that they thought they would have. They don’t have the protections that I think most Americans have come to expect.

Here is the first finding in the report: “When searching online for health insurance plans, it is difficult to differentiate between paid advertisements and search results.”

Now, we just had an example today of a man in Pennsylvania who told us that, when he went online and did some investigation and then was talking to someone on the phone who was selling him insurance, they got the phrase “junk plans.” Why do we tell them that? We tell them that because these plans were only allowed to be in place for 3 months, but the administration changed that rule. Now, these plans are available. You can purchase a plan like this for 1 year, and then you can renew it for up to 3 years. What happens? Well, often, people are deceived into signing up for plans that don’t have the protections that they thought they would have. They don’t have the protections that I think most Americans have come to expect.

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So the first thing folks should do is make sure that they carefully examine these paid advertisements so they don’t get into a plan that is going to prevent them from getting the coverage they need.

The second finding that we concluded is: “Paid advertisements for health insurance are often misleading and fail to fully disclose very important information.”

The third and final finding is the following: “Advertisements often use ‘HealthCare.Gov’ in the website title and descriptions despite having no affiliation with HealthCare.Gov.”

So people see that on the top of the page, and it is not designated in the correct way so that you can actually get to the correct site. You are sent to some other site, and before you know it, you are clicking on plans that don’t give you the coverage you think you are getting.

So there is a lot of misinformation. There is a lot of scam artistry or a lot of other ways to describe it because they have more time to do it. They used to only have a 3-month time period. It wasn’t really a good business model to try to mislead people into your junk plan for only 3 months. Now, they have 1 year or they may have more than 1 year if the individual were to reenroll for a total of 3 years. So instead of having 3 months for this short-term insurance, which was always going to be permanent, which was only meant to be an interim policy, now these scam artists, these purveyors of fraud in many instances, have a lot more time to rip you off and get you on to a plan that doesn’t provide the kind of protection that you and your family need.

So what are we going to do about it? We should do a couple of things. We, first and foremost, should remind people that this is the time, starting this Friday, November 1, for open enrollment. Folks will have 6 weeks in that open enrollment period. That is good, and we should make sure people are aware when that open enrollment starts; but while they are searching and making this very consequential decision for themselves or their family, they should be warned about and be educated about what can happen to them if they are on a site that will not provide the care and the coverage that they need.

There’s an old expression: “Forewarned is forearmed.” We want to forewarn people so they are ready and they will be vigilant.

Here are a couple of things that we can do. We provide you with a couple of tips to avoid enrolling in one of these junk plans.

No. 1: “To get help picking the health insurance coverage that fits your needs, visit HealthCare.Gov.”

In fact, when you type in to do a search on a site that looks like HealthCare.Gov, the best way to get to the right site. So just make sure you are on HealthCare.Gov and not something that looks like HealthCare.Gov. Some will go on a site, and some people don’t realize they are not on HealthCare.Gov. They are on healthcare.org. That is an old way of referring to the site. HealthCare.Gov is the correct one. That is tip No. 1. Be careful of that.

No. 2: “Be aware of how the search engine designates advertisements.” Be aware that something that looks official is just an advertisement. Be careful about that.

No. 3: “Always look at the website address, typically displayed in green font, before clicking on a link.” So be careful about the website address.

No. 4: “Pay attention to the words used in the website title and description.” Title and description. For example, the difference between HealthCare.Gov and healthcare.org.

So folks can take a look at these tips and be ready to enroll through HealthCare.Gov in a way that will give them the coverage they want when they are making that basic choice.

This is what sabotage looks like. When you change a rule from one administration to another, instead of having a 3-month rule giving these interim plans a chance to operate in a shorter timeframe and you enlarge that to a year, you are sabotaging the system when you do that. You are not providing people a chance for better healthcare, you are making it much more likely that folks will be deceived because those who are trying to make money here saw this opportunity. As soon as they saw that 3 months going to 1 year, they realized the opportunity to make money and rip people off, and it is working. A lot of people are becoming victims of it. So that is sabotage.

The other sabotage is limiting the enrollment period. I just mentioned that open enrollment period starts on Friday, but it is 6 weeks. It used to be longer than 6 weeks. So you are limiting the time within which someone can avail themselves to get healthcare, the opportunity to change a plan or do anything like that.

Another way that sabotage has played out is a limitation on the advertising. Guess what, if you limit the advertising by cutting the advertising budget—at one point, it was cut by 90 percent—guess what, fewer people know about their opportunities to enroll by way of HealthCare.Gov or to have the opportunity not just for coverage for families but for subsidies that will help you pay for the coverage. So that is another way that the administration is engaged in sabotage, and it is working because, as I mentioned, 1.9 million Americans or fewer Americans are insured today than a couple of years ago, so it is working, unfortunately.

I mention the coverage loss that is hitting children. There is a New York Times story dated October 22, just last week. The headline is: “Medicaid Covers a Million More Children. Baby Elijah was one of them.”

The subheadline says “Officials point to rising unemployment, but the uninsured rate is climbing as familiesoundation of new paperwork and as fear rises among immigrants.”

So a series of steps taken by the administration has caused the number of children who are uninsured to go up. That is bad and should be unacceptable to any American.

Finally, I want to conclude with one thought about preexisting conditions. When we vote this week, we will have an opportunity to push back against some of the sabotage, to make it less likely that people will be misled, to make it less likely that people will be enrolled in some junk insurance plan. One of the adverse consequences of being in the wrong plan, getting the wrong information, and being misled, being deceived, is a lack of coverage for a preexisting condition. So if you have asthma or diabetes or arthritis or high blood pressure under the old rules, under the old law, you could be discriminated against because you had a preexisting condition, and an insurance company can legally discriminate against you.

The law changed in 2010, fortunately, so that discrimination was pushed back against, and we finally had a circumstance for families who didn’t have to worry about preexisting conditions—or at least didn’t have to worry about coverage for treatment for a preexisting condition.

So, and behold, you find examples in your home States. A couple of months ago, I was with one of my constituents, Rev. Shirley Cornell. She told me about how the Affordable Care Act had completely changed her husband’s life. She told me that her husband’s $8,000 deductible dropped by about one-third after enrolling in insurance under the Affordable Care Act. She said: “We were one experience away from chaos and possibly bankruptcy.” Because of the protections in place for a preexisting condition, Reverend Cornell doesn’t have to worry about that. She may have to worry about a lot of other things, but that is one thing she doesn’t have to worry about.

Unfortunately, if this sabotage keeps marching forward, she may have to worry. A worry that was lifted from so many families just less than a decade ago now may burden them once again. There is no reason why we have to go back to those days when an insurance company could deny coverage because that child had a preexisting condition or could deny an adult treatment or coverage because they had a preexisting condition. There is no reason why we have to go back to those days; yet some around here seem to want to go back to those days.

The best way to make sure that we don’t is to fight against what the administration has been doing, to fight against the lawsuit, to fight against the sabotage, and to fight against the budget cuts. I know some don’t want to do that. They seem to want to continue to support what the administration is doing.
I hope that folks will take advantage of this opportunity in the next 6 weeks, starting on Friday, November 1, and use the open enrollment period and examine these issues with an eye towards not being deceived, not being brought down a road where you won’t get the coverage you need. Maybe we can have some success in putting the junk plan artists out of business so that they can’t deceive people into getting insurance that they expect would provide them more coverage.

I yield the floor.
IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY PROCEDURES IN THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

HON. JAMES F. MCGOVERN
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Section 4(a) of House Resolution 660, 116th Congress, I hereby submit the following impeachment inquiry procedures in the Committee on the Judiciary for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY PROCEDURES IN THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY PURSUANT TO H. RES. 660

A. INITIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. The Committee on the Judiciary (“Committee”) may receive at a hearing presentation(s) from counsel(s) designated by the chairs and ranking minority members for the majority and minority of a committee which provides a report, records or other materials to the Committee under section 2 or 3 of H. Res. 660.

2. In addition, the Committee may receive from Committee counsel for the majority and minority at a hearing a presentation consisting of (i) a written statement detailing, in paragraph form, information believed by the counsel to be pertinent to the inquiry, (ii) a general description of the scope and manner of the presentation, evidence, and or (iii) a detailed presentation of the evidentiary material, other than the testimony of witnesses.

3. The President’s counsel shall be furnished a copy of the report(s), record(s) or other materials referenced in section 2(5) and (6) or section 3 of H. Res. 660, and any material furnished to the Committee pursuant to this section. The President and his counsel shall be invited to attend and observe the initial presentations, and the President’s counsel may ask questions subject to instructions from the chair or presiding member respecting the time, scope and duration of the examination.

B. ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

1. Any Committee member may bring additional evidence in writing to the Committee’s attention.

2. The President’s counsel shall be invited to respond, orally or in writing as shall be determined by the chair, in consultation with the ranking minority member.

3. Should the President’s counsel wish the Committee to receive additional testimony or other evidence, he or she shall be invited to submit written requests and precise summaries of what he or she would propose to show, the purpose of a witness precisely and in detail what it is expected the testimony or evidence would be, if called. On the basis of such requests and summaries of the record then before it, the Committee shall determine whether the suggested evidence is necessary or desirable to a full and fair record in the inquiry, and, if so, whether the evidence shall be accepted as part of the record or additional testimony or evidence in some other form shall be received, subject to instructions from the chair or presiding member respecting the time, scope and duration of any examination or presentation. In making such determination, notwithstanding Rule II of the Committee on the Judiciary Rules of Procedure, the chair may schedule a Committee meeting subject to the notice procedures for a Committee meeting under clause 2(g)(3)(A) and (B) of House rule XI.

C. WITNESSES

If and when witnesses are to be called, the following additional procedures shall be applicable to hearings held for that purpose:

1. The President and his counsel shall be invited to attend all hearings, including any held in executive session.

2. Objections relating to the examination of witnesses or to the admissibility of testimony and evidence may be raised only by a witness or his counsel, a member of the Committee, Committee counsel or the President’s counsel and shall be ruled upon by the chair or presiding member. Such rulings shall be final, unless overruled by a vote of a majority of the members present. In the case of a tie vote, the ruling of the chair shall prevail.

3. At the discretion of the chair, in consultation with the ranking minority member, notwithstanding clause 2(j)(2)(A) of rule XI, upon recognition by the chair for such purpose under this section during any hearing designated pursuant to H. Res. 660 and these procedures, the chair and ranking minority member shall be permitted to question witnesses for equal specified periods of longer than 5 minutes, as determined by the chair. The time available for each period of questioning under this section shall be equal for the chair and the ranking minority member. The chair may under recognition for multiple periods of such questioning, but each period of questioning shall not exceed 90 minutes in the aggregate. Only the chair and ranking minority member, or Committee counsel yielded to by the chair or ranking minority member, may question witnesses during such periods of questioning. At the conclusion of questioning pursuant to this section, the Committee shall proceed with questioning under the 5-minute rule pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(A) of rule XI.

4. The President’s counsel may question any witness called before the Committee, subject to instructions from the chair or presiding member respecting the time, scope and duration of the examination.

D. At the discretion of the chair, in consultation with the ranking minority member, the Committee may receive a concluding presentation from the President’s counsel and Committee counsel for the majority and minority.

E. If a hearing is conducted before the Committee, the President’s counsel shall have the discretion to impose appropriate remedies, including by denying specific requests by the President or his counsel under these procedures to call or question witnesses.

F. These procedures supersede paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the investigative procedures adopted by the Committee on September 12, 2019.

H. For purposes of these procedures, Committee counsel shall include consultants retained by the Committee.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY CAREER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. BILL POSEY
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, November 11th marks the start of National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week. This week-long campaign focuses on the local, regional and national interest to engage the community on not only the importance of cybersecurity but career opportunities in the field. Cybersecurity IT workers play a vital role in upholding the integrity of our systems, networks, and programs as well as pioneering new ways to promote system strength against unforeseen threats. In a highly interconnected and increasingly globalized world, there has never been a more important time than now to raise awareness.

Unfortunately, America is facing a critical shortage of people trained in cybersecurity. There are currently over 300,000 jobs nationally that need to be filled in the cybersecurity workforce and globally, an expected shortfall of 1.8 million cybersecurity professionals by 2022. This deficit can easily be filled by American talent and continued commitment to making educational resources available early.

In my own district, we are doing our part by educating the public about what role cybersecurity plays in their everyday lives and how impactful a career in cybersecurity can be. To raise the awareness of the importance of pursuing a career in cybersecurity, several of our local colleges along with the Brevard School District, EDC Space Coast and Florida Tech Corridor to name a few, will come together to discuss the role of cybersecurity in our economy, in enhancing public safety and national security.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week.

HONORING WILLIAM CARL LAUBSCHER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Carl...
Laubscher. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, William has led his troop as an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, become an Ordal member of the Order of the Arrow, and holds the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. William has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. William funded and mentored a First Lego League Robotics team at Crossroads Academy, a charter school in Kansas City, Missouri, building the competition practice table for student’s school and the travel table for the competitions.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Carl Laubscher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING EDWARD J. MOSES, ESQ.

HON. JOHN KATKO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward J. Moses, Esq., who was recently named the “2019 Distinguished Lawyer” by the Onondaga County Bar Association.

In his career extending over 50 years as an attorney, Edward Moses has been known for his uncompromising ethic, client-focused approach, and loyalty to his firm Mackenzie Hughes, LLP, where he has spent his entire legal career. Across the legal profession, Edward Moses has earned admiration from his peers, competing lawyers, and respected judges. For this reason, in 2016 and 2018, Edward Moses received the distinction of “Syracuse Lawyer of the Year” in corporate law.

In 1969, Edward Moses began his career in law with Mackenzie Hughes, LLP, immediately following his graduation from Syracuse University College of Law. However, within only two weeks of his start date, Edward Moses put his career on hold to fulfill the commitment he made to the United States Coast Guard. For ten weeks, he attended boot camp at Cape May, New Jersey, before returning home to Central New York in 1969.

Edward Moses and his wife, Elaine, have five sons and reside in Otisco, New York. He is known for his commitment to his family— and while he frequently works six days a week, he never misses a family dinner or sporting event for his sons.

Devoted to his faith, Edward Moses is active in St. Patrick’s Church in Otisco. Additionally, he is a deeply involved alumni of Christian Brothers Academy and Georgetown University, where he was on the baseball team, and played football, lacrosse, and baseball. For nearly 40 years, Edward Moses has served with distinction on the Christian Brothers Academy Board of Trustees. In this role, he notably oversaw improvements to its campus and played an instrumental role in transforming the school into a coed institution.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Edward J. Moses, Esq. A dedicated family man, and highly respected figure in our Central New York community, Edward Moses has served with great distinction in the legal profession and is highly deserving of this honor.

WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2423, the “Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act,” as amended.

H.R. 2423 directs the Department of the Treasury to mint and issue up to 400,000 $1 silver coins that are emblematic of the women who played a vital role in rallying support for the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.


The Declaration of Sentiments was modeled after the Declaration of Independence and declared that “all men and women are created equal,” linking women’s rights directly to the founding ideals of the United States.

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th and final State needed to pass the 19th Amendment, ensuring its ratification pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States.

The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 26, 1920, when Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby issued a proclamation announcing that it has become part of the Constitution of the United States.

The ratification of the 19th Amendment marked the single largest extension of voting rights in United States history, enfanchising 27,000,000 American women in the United States.

This act is a way to honor and commemorate the work of women’s suffrage activists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It will increase public awareness and appreciation for the history of the women’s suffrage movement.

Ultimately, it will encourage all women in the United States to exercise their hard-won franchise and to become involved in civic life, if they so choose.

Without these pioneers for social change and justice, women like me and my fellow colleagues would not have gotten to where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2423 to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in 19th commemoration of ratification of the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY RENAMIUG OLD TOWN STATION IN HONOR OF CHARLES EMERY AND HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. F. Charles Emery II of Lewisville, Texas on the occasion of his retirement as Chairman of the Board of the Denton County Transportation Authority.

Charles and his wife Elaine, both of whom I have considered friends for decades, have served Denton County in a variety of ways and left an indelible mark on our community. In addition to a successful career in real estate development, Charles was a member of the Lewisville City Council, an active member of the Lewisville and Dallas Chambers of Commerce, and a member of a variety of boards and commissions that touched almost every facet of our region.

A man of great faith, Charles has been a dedicated member of the Denton Bible Church, where he and Elaine are long-time supporters of its choir program. Charles is also a proud veteran, having served our country in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard. And I know Charles would not let me forget his dedication to his beloved alma mater, Texas A&M University.

However, in a life that includes many achievements, Charles’ most lasting contribution to our region may be his role as the father and chief architect of the Denton County Transportation Authority, which provides vital public transportation services throughout North Texas.

Charles worked tirelessly with state lawmakers to fine-tune the legislation signed by then-Governor Rick Perry in 2001 that created Denton County Transportation Authority as an entity. He then spent the next year going door-to-door in every corner of Denton County in support of a local ballot measure to confirm creation of the agency. It was approved with a 73 percent majority. I remember early in my Congressional career, Charles did not hesitate to lend his expertise on local transportation issues.

Once Denton County Transportation Authority was formed, Charles agreed to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors and for the next 17 years, he proceeded to lead the agency down a path of providing quality services to a transit-dependent constituency in a fiscally responsible manner. After concentrating on bus service for the first 10 years of existence, Charles and his colleagues at Denton County Transportation Authority expanded the agency’s footprint to include commuter rail with the 2011 opening of the 21-mile A-Train, which connects Denton County to the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Light rail system in Carrollton.

Charles quickly became a staple in the North Texas transportation community and offered his insights and service to a number of entities, including the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition and the Regional Transportation Council of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition.
For his efforts, Charles was recognized with the “Outstanding Public Transportation Board Member Award” in 2007 by the American Public Transportation Association, the premier association representing the interests of the public transportation industry in North America.

It is a privilege to recognize my friend Charles Emery for his dedication and commitment to his fellow North Texans, and I congratulate him on this well-earned honor.

RECOGNIZING BIANCA MADERAL
HON. DONNA E. SHALALA
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Bianca Maderal. A young adult undergoing cancer treatment, Bianca founded Fight Like a Kid, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children with cancer.

Bianca was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2016 when she was a senior in high school. Since then, she has been a constant source of inspiration and support for other children battling cancer. She continues to receive treatment at the Nicklaus Children’s Hospital in Miami. Between chemotherapy sessions, she can be found putting together care packages for pediatric cancer centers across the country, donating funds to pediatric cancer research, and helping other children with their diagnoses.

As Fight Like a Kid puts it, sometimes real superheroes live in the hearts of small children fighting big battles. Bianca has become a superhero not only to the other children at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital but also to their families and to cancer patients across the country.

Fight Like a Kid is an incredible organization created by a truly inspirational young woman. It really is cancer’s turn to be afraid.

HONORING BRANDON JACOB
HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Jacob. Brandon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brandon has led his troop as the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, become an Ordained member of the Order of the Arrow, and holds the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Brandon has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Brandon built storage shelving for the KC Pet Project animal shelter in Kansas City, Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Jacob for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately detained during roll call no. 571, On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 646, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2513) Corporate Transparency Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 572, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 646, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2513) Corporate Transparency Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 573, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 2513, Burgess of Texas Part B Amendment No. 1. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 574, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 2513, Carolynn Maloney of New York Part B Amendment No. 4. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 575, On Agree to the Amendment, H.R. 2513, Davidson of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 576, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 2513, Corporate Transparency Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 577, On Passage, H.R. 2513, Corporate Transparency Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 578, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2426, Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES LESLEY WALTERS
HON. ROBERT B.ADERHOLT OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. ADERHOLT. I would like to recognize Mr. Les Walters, Editor of the Hamilton Journal Record, for the position of managing editor of the Journal Record newspaper, also in Hamilton. He has held this position for the past 32 years.

During his more than three decades at the Journal Record, his leadership has helped steer the paper and the community during much change, progress and even tragedy. From the completion of interstate 1–22 through Marion County, the 2011 tornado outbreak that left several dozen people in the county dead, to the 2016 Hamilton office shootings, Walters has been there to help the paper and his staff write the first draft of Marion County history.

As an editor, Walters has been a vocal advocate of Alabama’s open records and open meetings act and has kept county and municipal governments accountable to adhere by them. Walters also cultivated a higher standard of journalism in Marion County. Under his leadership, the paper moved from submission-based coverage to having reporters prioritize county commission meetings and city and town council meetings, bringing local news and issues to print for the public’s awareness.

Walters has received numerous media awards from the Alabama Press Association, including his most-prized award, the APA Feature Story of the Year, which he was honored with for his article “Dr. Charlie Pyle’s Hamilton Hillbillies Semi-Pro Baseball Team.”

Walters has also been the recipient of Kiwanis Citizen of the Year and has served as the Hamilton CJ’s president, where he was a long-time member and helped organize numerous fund raisers, such as wrestling nights and air shows at the Marion County Rankin-Fite Airport.

Walters married his wife of 39 years, Sheri, on July 19, 1980. They have two sons; Sloan, 34, of Murfreesboro, Tenn. Sloan and his wife Erin have two sons, Thad, 5, Crosby, 2, and another child expected in February 2020; his youngest son, Chance, 33, lives in Birmingham. The Walters family are members of the First Baptist Church of Hamilton, where Les Walters has taught Sunday school for youth and college-aged adults. He also serves on the church’s publicity committee.

As a member of Congress, representing Marion County and northwest Alabama, I want to acknowledge and honor Mr. Walters and his years of service to his community, his state and our First Amendment. I wish Les Walters all the best in his well-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was with Land of Lincoln Honor Flight at Arlington. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 587, and NAY on Roll Call No. 588.
CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL

HON. CHARLIE CRIST
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of college football in the United States. For fans, college football is a coming together to honor athleticism, hard work, and your favorite team. For players, it's an irreplaceable opportunity to hone work ethic, gain leadership skills, become part of a close-knit team, and play for your school. As a former college quarterback, I'm thankful for the opportunities playing this amazing sport provided, and as a Floridian I'm thrilled when Florida's teams win. From storied institutions to rising stars, Florida's collegiate football programs are unmatched, as is their fans love for the game. Madam Speaker, may college football continue to thrive for another 150 years.

HONORING JEFFREY KINNEER LAUBSCHER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeffrey Kinneer Laubscher. Jeffrey is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeffrey has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeffrey has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jeffrey has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and holds the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Jeffrey has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jeffrey built and installed privacy screens for the portable restrooms for the NKCA Baseball Association at the A.J. Wilson Sports Complex in Kansas City, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeffrey Kinneer Laubscher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS
HON. ANN M. KUSTER
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave Americans who served our country during the Vietnam Era. The courage, patriotism, and heroism that our servicemembers displayed when faced with the danger of serving in the Vietnam War speaks to the character and strength of these individuals and our nation.

I am honored to be a part of the Vietnam War Commemorative Committee. The brave men and women who served our nation during the Vietnam War set aside their ambitions, left behind their families, and risked their lives for our country. This project is a token of our gratitude for their selfless service and steadfast, unwavering devotion to our nation and the American people. The legacy of all those who served during the conflict is an inspiration to our nation. To the families of our servicemembers who stood by faithfully as your loved ones departed to defend our free doms overseas, I offer my sincere gratitude for your shared commitment to duty and service.

I will continue to work each day to serve all those who have served us so valiantly. Our veterans have made incredible sacrifices in honor of our nation. It is a debt we can never repay, and one we can never forget. It is essential that we provide all our veterans with the care and support they so richly deserve.

As the Representative for New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I will continue to work on behalf of our courageous Vietnam veterans, servicemembers, and military families who have given so much for our country. May we honor and celebrate all our soldiers, and may God bless the United States of America.

As of November 1st, 2019, I was honored to present Vietnam Commemorative Pins to the following constituents:


HONORING JEFFREY KINNEER LAUBSCHER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

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Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeffrey Kinneer Laubscher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeffrey Kinneer Laubscher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.
coverage as well as significant declines in the access to and quality of care.

As Medicare and the Older Americans Act reach their fiftieth anniversaries continue to improve aging America’s access to affordable, high-quality care, it will be necessary to identify, evaluate, and scaleup policy interventions that work.

Today’s health care workforce is inadequate to meet the needs of older Americans, many of whom have multiple chronic physical and mental health conditions and cognitive impairments.

10 percent of Harris Counties population is 65 years and older.

It is critical for the United States Congress to stand with aging seniors who need access to food, transportation, and other basic services.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4334 to help older ensure that aging seniors are provided with essential services they need to live independently.

REVEREND SUAREZ

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Israel Suarez for his over 40 years of community service to Southwest Florida. Reverend Suarez is the founder and CEO of Nations Association Charities. Reverend Suarez and Nations Association have given four decades helping disadvantaged residents and youth in Southwest Florida by providing food for struggling families, scholarships assistance for college-bound youths, job counseling and placement help, and drug prevention programs, all impacting thousands of lives over the years.

In 2019, Reverend Suarez’s focus has been to serve primarily at-risk youth through mentoring, drug and suicide prevention, academic assistance, leadership development, community service, and financial literacy. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush awarded Reverend Suarez with a Points of Light Award and in 1994 the News-Press named Reverend Suarez and his wife Ruth, the ‘People of the Year.’

Every year, Reverend Suarez and Nations Association Charities provide an annual Thanksgiving meal distribution event, Christmas Celebration, and a “Back to Basics Health Fair” that provides free medical screenings to hundreds of families in our community.

I thank Reverend Suarez for his years of service to our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COL.
ANTHONY POLASHEK

HON. COLIN C. PETERSON
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, on November 2, Colonel Anthony G. Polashek is retiring from the 934th Airlift Wing at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station in Minnesota after serving in the Air Force for 32 years. As Commander, he led the 1,500-member wing and supported our Armed Forces for resupply missions in forward areas and aeromedical and refugee evacuations. His command and leadership was critical in the defense of our country.

Col. Polashek graduated from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa before commissioning into the Air Force as a graduate of Officer Training School in Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Col. Polashek served and was deployed to support operations including Operation Desert Shield/Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom. As a command pilot, he logged more than 5,800 flight hours including over 500 combat hours. He has received several prestigious awards for his service, including the Meritorious Service Medal and Aerial Achievement Medal.

Today, I urge lawmakers to join me in thanking Col. Polashek for his 32 years of service in the United States Air Force and wish him well in future endeavors.

HONORING COLTEN MICHAEL PICKERAL

MADAM SPEAKER,

Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colten Michael Pickeral of Minnesota for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

Colten has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years, Colten has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Colten has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Colten inspected and restrung three swimming lane lines at the Cannon Aquatic Center in Cannon, Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colten Michael Pickeral for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRIST CATHEDRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Christ Cathedral Baptist Church, a house of worship located in Detroit, Michigan, on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

The members of Christ Cathedral Baptist Church first came together to worship in 1994. The congregation grew so quickly in its first year that they were forced to find a new worship space before settling at its current address on Hartford Street. No matter what location, the congregation was home wherever they could gather together for worship. It is evident in their mutual support for one another and commitment to serving the community’s most vulnerable that the Christ Cathedral Baptist Church is a family. For more than twenty years, the church has given back to the community by hosting meal services for those in need and ministering to people struggling with substance abuse. In short, the flock at Christ Cathedral has strength from each other as they have come together to worship and celebrate, and they have used their strength in service to others.

Please join me in recognizing Christ Cathedral Baptist Church on this milestone as we wish them many more years of service to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN CONYERS

SPEECH OF
HON. KAREN BASS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Congressman John Conyers. He was one of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). He served for 53 years in the U.S. House of Representatives—making him one of the longest-serving House members in U.S. history and the first African American to hold the title of dean.

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., was born in Detroit, Michigan, on May 16, 1929, the eldest of four sons of John and Lucille (Simpson) Conyers. Congressman Conyers attended Detroit public schools and graduated from Northwestern High School in 1947. After graduating from high school, Mr. Conyers served in the National Guard from 1948 to 1950 and then joined the U.S. Army for four years.

Congressman Conyers later attended officer candidate school and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. During his time in the Army, he served in Korea for a year. He was honorably discharged. Shortly after, he served more than ten years in the Army Reserve.

He was inspired by his friend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to run for office and was elected to the House of Representatives in 1964. His first hire was civil rights hero Rosa Parks. She served as an aide to Mr. Conyers for 22 years from 1964 until she retired in 1988. During his time in Congress, Representative Conyers chaired the Government Oversight and Reform Committee (formerly the Government Operations Committee) and was the first African American to serve on the House Judiciary Committee and to become its chair.

As a human rights and civil rights champion, Mr. Conyers opposed the death penalty and fought for police brutality oversight. He was a lead co-sponsor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Mr. Conyers also assisted in passing the Help America Vote Act (2002), the Violence Against Women Act (1994), the Motor Voter Bill (1993), the Jazz Preservation Act (1987), and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holida Act (1983).

His legislative record extends to introducing the Medicare For All Act, legislation to establish a government-sponsored, single-payer
healthcare option to control costs. Additionally, Representative Conyers also championed the issue of reparations by introducing a bill to establish a commission to study the effect of slavery and race relations in America, which he fought for consideration every year.

his light for justice also extended to international issues, as well. Mr. Conyers was an early leader in the anti-Vietnam War movement, in addition to the anti-Iraq War movement. He was also a vocal opponent of South Africa’s apartheid policies. Congressman Conyers joined Congressman Ron Dellums and other CBC Members in confronting President Nixon about imposing sanctions against South Africa. When it became clear he would not act, Congressman Conyers joined Congressman Dellums in introducing legislation to that end and was even arrested at a protest in front of the South African embassy.

He impacted so many people in his district and throughout the country. America is a better country today because of the legislative and advocacy work of Representative John Conyers, Jr.

CONGRATULATING THE BREESE MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL BOYS’ GOLF TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Breeze Mater Dei High School boys’ golf team, which recently brought home the Illinois Class 1A state championship.

It was a very closely contest tournament October 19 to 20 at Prairie Vista Golf Course in Bloomington. At the end of the first round, the Mater Dei Knights found themselves trailing Carmi-White County’s 320 score at the top of the leaderboard by a single stroke, with Belleville Althoff Catholic one shot behind them in third place.

In the second—and final—round, Mater Dei and Althoff both shot 322, while Carmi-White County carded a 347 total to fall out of contention. The Knights’ 643 gave them a one-stroke victory over their rivals from Althoff and the school’s second state golf title. Long-time Coach Dennis Trame also led Mater Dei to the Class A championship in 1993.

My hearty congratulations go to Coach Trame and team members Carter Goebel, Grant Goebel, Nathan Rivera, Ian Berndsen, Blake Kloekner, and Tanner Gerdes, as well as to Athletic Director Ron Schadegg and Principal Dennis Litkeen.

Mr. Speaker, these student-athletes have represented themselves, their school, and their community in the best tradition of high school athletics. I wish them all continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 23, 2019 during roll call no. 579, On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 650, Providing for consideration of H.R. 4617, the Stopping Harmful Interference in Elections for a Lasting Democracy Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 580, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 656, providing for consideration of H.R. 4617, the Stopping Harmful Interference in Elections for a Lasting Democracy Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 581, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4617, Lesko of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 2. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 582, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 4617, SHIELD Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 583, On Passage, H.R. 4617, SHIELD Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.” I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 584, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 777, Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I missed votes last week (10/21 to 10/23) due to full-time military duties with the South Carolina Air National Guard. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 568; YEA on Roll Call No. 569; YEA on Roll Call No. 570; NAY on Roll Call No. 571; NAY on Roll Call No. 572; YEA on Roll Call No. 573; NAY on Roll Call No. 574; YEA on Roll Call No. 575; YEA on Roll Call No. 576; NAY on Roll Call No. 577; YEA on Roll Call No. 578; NAY on Roll Call No. 579; NAY on Roll Call No. 580; YEA on Roll Call No. 581; YEA on Roll Call No. 582; NAY on Roll Call No. 583; and NAY on Roll Call No. 584.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Minock-Whitlock Park as the residents of Detroit celebrate its opening.

The residents of Detroit’s Warrendale neighborhood have worked tirelessly to open a community park. We owe special thanks to the Matney family for their leadership in this project. The goal of creating a community gathering place that can be enjoyed by all community members has been realized. Minock-Whitlock Park will be an asset to the neighborhood and the community at-large, emphasizing the importance of coming together as a community.

Please join me in tribute to the Detroit residents who made this park possible in honor of the grand opening of Minock-Whitlock Park.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1306, the “Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act.”

H.R. 1306 amends the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to help federal agencies streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments following disasters. H.R. 1306 also establishes a federal working group to identify areas of overlap in performing the assessments used to administer disaster assistance for individuals, households, states, tribes, and territories.

It is critical for the United States Congress to stand with the women and men who have been affected by disasters across the United States.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey dumped a record 275 trillion pounds of rain on the Houston area. An estimated 13 million people were affected, nearly 135,000 homes damaged or destroyed in the historic flooding, and up to a million cars were wrecked.

This year, Tropical Storm Imelda has dumped 10 inches of rain in Houston, and at least 40 inches of rain in other parts of southeast Texas, making it one of the wettest storms in history.

These natural disasters represent the importance of H.R. 1306 to properly mitigate disaster relief services and provide appropriate assistance to impacted communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1306 to help federal agencies streamline information collection and damage assessments following disasters.

HUNTERDON HELPLINE’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM MALINOWSKI
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hunterdon Helpline’s 50th Anniversary, a valuable and important organization serving Hunterdon County, Somerset County and beyond.

Hunterdon Helpline offers a wide array of services, including Literacy Services for adult learners, Workconnectivity to connect employees to employers, senior and disability programs for socialization and well-being, the Community Translation Center to assist those whose first language is something other than English, 24-Hour Homeless Response in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties; compassionate listening; suicide prevention; and First Assist, a comprehensive information and referral service offered 24–7, 365 days of the year.

Spots for community members are intended to a host of volunteers who continue to give generously of their time, energy and resources to Hunterdon Helpline through their invaluable efforts as members of the Board of Trustees,
HONORING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, a house of worship in Detroit, Michigan, as its members celebrate the church’s one hundred fortieth anniversary, as well as Pastor Reverend Richard E. Robinson’s twenty-five years in ministry.

Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded in 1879 under the leadership of Dr. Theol Emil Hardrat. The church and its school have persevered. Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church has created a lasting legacy of prayer, praise, fellowship, and mutual aid that continues today under the leadership of Pastor Reverend Richard E. Robinson. His twenty-five year career in ministry brought him to serve the Saint John congregation, where he has touched the lives of many. Whether praying for a good harvest, celebrating love in marriage, or marking the passing of a dear friend and loved one from this world, the members of Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church have drawn strength from each other.

Please join me in tribute to Reverend Richard E. Robinson and the members of Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church on this important milestone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4617. As a co-sponsor of this legislation, I believe it would create critical safeguards to protect our elections. I would like to reauthorize a key DNA backlog grant program.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL DANE W. POWELL

HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Colonel Dane W. Powell of the Mississippi Army National Guard for his extraordinary dedication and service to our Nation. Colonel Powell will soon retire from an impressive 33-year career.

Colonel Powell, a lifelong Mississippian, joined the Mississippi Army National Guard in 1986 after his graduation from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is currently serving as the State Army Aviation Officer at Joint Force Headquarters for the Mississippi Army National Guard. His military service took him all around the world to areas including South Korea, Japan, St. Croix, Columbia, Barbados, and Uzbekistan. He was deployed to Iraq in 2004 to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom II. During his career, Colonel Powell received many accolades for his outstanding service, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

After retirement, Colonel Powell will continue his passion for flying as a pilot for PHI Air Medical and will fly for AirCare through the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He will wed his fiancée Lea Pentecost and looks forward to spending time with his children, London Addison Powell, Dane Whitney Powell II, Douglas Alexander Pentecost, and Carson Reese Pentecost.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of a fellow Mississippian, Colonel Dane W. Powell. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.
Belgium, until a U.S. visa arrived in March of 1940. The family left for the United States just before the Nazis invaded Belgium. With much persistence and against all odds, the Salmon family joined a small group of German Jewish refugees on Staten Island. To support his family Paul became a door-to-door salesman and went into support business. Egon attended New Dorp High School on Staten Island and was drafted into the U.S. Army upon graduating. He trained for combat duty in South Carolina and was granted U.S. citizenship before being sent overseas to North Africa and then to Naples, Italy, in 1943.

Egon served in the U.S. Army in the Italian Campaign until 1945, overcoming great prejudices against Germans and Jews in his unit. He was placed in a unit that occupied Austria for nine months, using his ability to speak German to benefit his new country. He was awarded the combat infantry badge and three battle stars for his service.

After he returned to Staten Island, Egon joined his father’s business and then established Salmon Real Estate in 1956, which continues as the business today. Egon served as president of the Staten Island Board of Realtors and was a New York City Tax Commissioner. With his wife Marie, a native Staten Islander, Egon took an active role in the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island. In 2016, Egon and Marie established the Egon J. Salmon and Family Commemoration of Kristallnacht and the St. Louis at Wagner College in New York to strengthen Staten Island’s ties to the Jewish community.

In 2016, Egon and Marie established the Egon J. Salmon and Family Commemoration of Kristallnacht and the St. Louis at Wagner College in New York to strengthen Staten Island’s ties to the Jewish community.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “... of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on November 1, 2019. They, too, will be American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA’S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT’S NEWEST CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to congratulate twenty-five individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on November 1, 2019. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Buildings in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—a land from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On November 1, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Vilma Aguilar, Ekaterina Shoulidke, Ana Maria Barrientos, Rosa Martha Peña Elizondo, Margarita Sesez Portillo, Damilare Mustapha Jimoh, Felip Briseno, Ivanett Alejandra Suarez, Alfredo H. Luna, Zarish Raza, Elena Alexandrovnna Bursevtsa, Ivonne Cecilia Rocha, Connor MacDonald, Elena Ancevski, Francine Ingabire, Mark Green, Alexander Donghui Lee, Maria Asuncion Mansilla, Nyamar Chan Nhlial, Arnulfio Loera, Vincent Balinda, Zulema Lissette Lee, Paul Edward Nyongani, Robenson Petit Bien, and Payal Dilipbhai Patel.

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Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on November 1, 2019. They, too, will be American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

CONGRATULATING THE CHAMBER

HON. JOHN JOYCE OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 100th annual meeting.

In September of 1918, Gettysburg businessman Roy Funkhouser organized a group of local businessmen to support economic development in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In 1919 the Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce was established, and it has continued to bring together local and regional businesses to grow the community.

Throughout its history, the Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce has led and supported important projects. From helping to establish a county library in 1931 to supporting the victims of Hurricane Andrew and commencing Adams County’s Small Business Appreciation Week tradition, the membership of the chamber has made a lasting legacy in our region.

With more than 600 members, the Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce is a strong advocate for entrepreneurs and the workforce of Adams County. It is my privilege to represent the chamber in the U.S. House of Representa-
VII of the Public Health Service Act to reau-
thorize certain programs relating to the health
professions workforce, and for other purposes.

RECOGNIZING DR. MATTHEW C.
WINKLEMAN OF HARRISBURG, IL
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. SHMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to
recognize Dr. Matthew C. Winkelman of Har-
rising, Illinois for having been honored with the
Distinguished Service Award by the Illinois
Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Winkelman received this prestigious
award because of his long-standing dedication
to providing outstanding primary care. Dr.
Winkelman’s focus on expanding access to
health care to Southern Illinois over the past
decades has ensured that quality care has al-
ways been available to those in need. Estab-
lished by Dr. Winkelman, the Primary Care
Group of Harrisburg, which has since evolved
to become SIH Medical Primary Care Group
Harrisburg, is among his many initiatives de-
signed to ensure high-quality primary care.

Especially important to this goal has been
the successful recruitment of other dedicated phy-
sicians to the clinic.

Dr. Winkelman’s focus on primary care has
led him to host medical students from South-
ern Illinois University School of Medicine to
expose them to the need and opportunity
which family medicine offers. Several students
have followed Dr. Winkelman’s example and
themselves gone into rural family medicine.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I
stand to recognize Dr. Winkelman for his lead-
ership in health care in Southern Illinois. His
dedication to this cause has benefited thou-
sands, and I am pleased that he has been se-
lected by the Illinois Academy of Family Phys-
cians to receive their 2019 Distinguished Serv-
ance Award.

IN HONOR OF ARMY SPECIALIST
JOHN W. ODIERNO OF FARMING-
DALE
HON. LEE M. ZELDIN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today
to honor Army Specialist 4th Class John W.
Odierno of Farmingdale, New York. Even at
a young age, Specialist Odierno was com-
templated to defend others, protecting his family, friends
and even his little brother in the school yard.
However, when Specialist Odierno was drafted
during the Vietnam War, his call to defend oth-
ers transitioned from the schoolyard to the
battlefield.

On March 21, 1967, while serving as squad
leader during a search and destroy mission in
the central highlands of Con Tum Province,
Specialist Odierno and his company were met
with intense machine gun and rifle fire from an
entrenched North Vietnamese battalion.
Specialist Odierno and his company found them-
theselves trapped and outnumbered.

Despite being wounded, Specialist Odierno
defended his position for twenty minutes, al-
loving his fellow soldiers to reload their wea-
pons. While this action saved the lives of many
soldiers, it cost Specialist Odierno his own.

At only twenty years old; Specialist Odierno
made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his
fellow soldiers and our great nation, but his
spirit and grit did not fail on the battlefield that
day. The men who witnessed his heroic ac-
tions continue to tell the story of selflessness and
bravery, including Lieutenant Toby Alvaro,
who believes Specialist Odierno should not
only have received the Silver Star, but the
Medal of Honor for his actions.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in
honoring Specialist Odierno’s service and sac-
ifices, ensuring that when a servicemember
falls in defense of our great country, our entire
nation stands in honor.

HONORING GARY BATTON, CHIEF
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF
OKLAHOMA, FOR RECEIVING THE
GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD FROM
HAPPY WORLD FOUNDATION
HON. TOM COLE
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to
honor a fellow Oklahoman and Native Ameri-
can, Gary Batton, for receiving the Global Cit-
izen Award from the Happy World Foundation.

After receiving a bachelor’s degree from
Southeastern Oklahoma State University in
1981, he served as the executive director of
the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority.

He then went on to serve as executive director of health and later appointed assistant chief in 2007. On April 28, 2014, Gary Batton became the 47th Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Through his career, Chief Batton has represented the Choctaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma through numerous national boards and committees. Currently, he serves on the Oklahoma Hall of Fame Board, the State Chamber of Oklahoma Board, the Telisma Medical Center Board of Directors, among other roles.

As a proud Oklahoman and member of the
Chickasaw Nation, I have always been pas-
sionate about advocating on behalf of Native Americans here in Washington, D.C. Therefore, I am very grateful that there are Oklaho-
mans like Gary Batton who have committed themselves to promoting Native American her-
itage. He has rightfully earned recognition for
his role as an ambassador for Native Ameri-
cans, and I hope that he continues his great
work in the years to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring
Dennis Gary Batton and his lifelong work to
promote and preserve Native American cul-
ture.

IN HONOR OF KAYLA MUELLER
HON. PAUL A. GOSAR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, today I would
like to recognize Kayla Mueller, a courageous,
selfless individual who died at the hands of
the ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Just re-
cently, the United States government con-
ducted a secret mission that led to the ISIS
leader’s demise. Fittingly, the mission was
named after Kayla to let the world know, she
did not die in vain.

Kayla was a brave missionary and activist
hailing from my district, specifically Prescott,
Arizona. She was dedicated to serving others
through her humanitarian work, regardless of
the danger. Her humanitarian work allowed
her to provide medical assistance to individ-
uals in Turkey which then led her to Aleppo,
Syria. This is a region where most humani-
tarian workers would not go but Kayla was not
like most people. En route to Aleppo, she was
abducted, held captive, tortured, and eventu-
ally perished at the hands of al-Baghdadi.

The mission that killed the ISIS leader was a his-
torically destabilizing moment for ISIS. Abu
Bakr al-Baghdadi died a coward while Kayla
Mueller died because of her courage and
dedication to others. No one will forget her
selflessness and her desire to positively imp-
act the lives of many.

I congratulate the special forces unit that
took down the depraved Abu Bakr al-
Baghdadi. It is my hope that Kayla’s family
finds comfort and peace knowing that justice
didly been served and that Kayla’s memory
will live in the hearts of Americans for years
to come. We cannot take back what happened
to Kayla. We can only hope that this mission
and its righteous results honor her life and mem-
ory.

RECOGNIZING WINTerset MIDDLE
SCHOOL FOR 2019 NATIONAL
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD
HON. CYNTHIA AXNE
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to
ask the House of Representatives to join me
in recognizing Winterset Middle School in
Winterset, Iowa for receiving a 2019 National
Blue Ribbon School Award.

The National Blue Ribbon School Award
recognizes outstanding schools based on their
educational environment, academic success,
and closure of achievement gaps between stu-
dent populations. Only four Iowa schools
were chosen this year. Winterset Middle School
serves just over 400 students in 4th through
6th grades. Under Principal Wendy Sawyer,
the school was nominated for and won the
National Blue Ribbon Schools Program as an
Exemplary High Performing School.

Winterset Middle School prides themselves
on their caring and supportive culture focused
on student growth and development. Nine
years ago when they first opened, Winterset
Middle School was a “School in Need of As-
sistance”. Just shy of a decade later, they’ve
shown what hard work and dedication can do
by winning this award and making us proud.

The faculty’s dedication to their profession
and students has made them the exemplary
school they are today. I am proud to be able
to represent these teachers, educators, admin-
istrators, parents, and students in Iowa’s 3rd
district. The school’s hard-won victory to their close-knit community, research-
based teaching strategies, and treating every
child as their own—and I couldn’t agree more.
It is an honor to commemorate the outstanding achievement of Winterset Middle School. I have great respect and admiration for our educators and am particularly thankful for the strong foundation they are giving our kids. As the mother of two boys, I know that a quality education is crucial to success. I hope the well-rounded training and techniques they found successful in the classroom become a model for the district and the country.

I applaud Winterset Middle School for their hard work and dedication, and I congratulate them on their success.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF DRUG DISCOUNTS AND REAL-TIME BENEFICIARY DRUG COST ACT

SPREECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2115, the “Public Disclosure of Drug Discounts Act.”

H.R. 2115 will require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to publish certain payment information regarding pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and prescription drugs.

H.R. 2115 also requires the CMS to publish certain information, as reported by PBMs, relating to generic dispensing rates, drug discounts and rebates, and payments between PBMs, health plans, and pharmacies, in accordance with specified confidentiality requirements.

In Harris County, 17.7 percent of the population is on Medicaid and 7.5 percent of the population is on Medicare.

H.R. 2115 will increase transparency within the aggregate rebates, discounts, and price concessions that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) negotiate with drug manufacturers.

This bill will also implement an electronic, real-time benefit tool that can integrate with PBMs, relaying generic dispensing rates, drug discounts and rebates, and payments between PBMs, health plans, and pharmacies, in accordance with specified confidentiality requirements.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2115 to help federal agencies streamline information collection to beneficiaries of Medicare and Medicaid.

HONORING INDIANA FARM BUREAU DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR

STEVE MAPLE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steve Maple on his 12-year career as Indiana Farm Bureau District 4 Director.

For many years, Steve has been dedicated to serving Hoosier family farmers, but his passion for agriculture began long before his time at the Farm Bureau. He has contributed a great deal to the strength of the Hoosier farming community, and his invaluable perspective and leadership skills have helped farmers in north central Indiana build an incredible foundation for growth and innovation. His spirit, commitment, and expertise will be greatly missed, but his legacy will surely be carried on.

Steve has been an excellent educator, advocate, mentor, and leader. With his term as District 4 Director coming to an end, I want to thank him for all he has done to make sure our farmers have what they need to thrive. He is an inspiration to us all and an outstanding role model to future generations.

Farmers are the backbone of our economy, and having people like Steve in these leadership roles truly puts Indiana in a strong position to continue leading the nation in agricultural innovation and production and feeding the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Steve the best as he embarks on this next chapter in life.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2115, the “Real-Time Benefit Tool for Drug Discounts Act.”

H.R. 2115 will require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to publish certain payment information regarding pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and prescription drugs.

H.R. 2115 also requires the CMS to publish certain information, as reported by PBMs, relating to generic dispensing rates, drug discounts and rebates, and payments between PBMs, health plans, and pharmacies, in accordance with specified confidentiality requirements.

In Harris County, 17.7 percent of the population is on Medicaid and 7.5 percent of the population is on Medicare.

H.R. 2115 will increase transparency within the aggregate rebates, discounts, and price concessions that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) negotiate with drug manufacturers.

This bill will also implement an electronic, real-time benefit tool that can integrate with PBMs, relaying generic dispensing rates, drug discounts and rebates, and payments between PBMs, health plans, and pharmacies, in accordance with specified confidentiality requirements.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2115 to help federal agencies streamline information collection to beneficiaries of Medicare and Medicaid.

HON. JOHN JOYCE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayneboro Lions Club of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania on its 90th anniversary.

Chartered on November 6, 1929, the Wayneboro Lions Club has faithfully executed its mission to serve the residents of the Wayneboro community by providing support to charitable organizations such as the Wayneboro Fire Department, the Alexander Hamilton Free Library, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, and the YMCA.

In addition to serving its local community, Wayneboro Lions Club has supported the Lion Club network in neighboring communities by sponsoring the Chambersburg Evening Lions Club, Penn National Lions Club, Wayneboro Area Lions Lioness Lions Club, and Wayneboro Area Middle School LEO Club. Please join me in congratulating the Wayneboro Lions Club as it celebrates nine decades of dedication to our region.

RECOGNIZING THE INVESTITURE OF GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, DR. KYLE MARRERO

HON. RICK W. ALLEN
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the investiture of Georgia Southern University’s 14th President, Dr. Kyle Marrero.

I am grateful for Dr. Marrero’s commitment to higher education, and specifically to Georgia’s students. With Georgia Southern offering 141 degree programs to 26,400 students across three campuses, serving at the helm is no easy task—but Dr. Marrero is certainly up to the challenge.

Prior to serving Georgia Southern, Dr. Marrero served other academic institutions including the University of West Georgia and the University of West Florida. His record for innovation and building data-informed strategic plans will benefit our community for years to come.
As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I am particularly excited about Dr. Marrero’s previous partnerships between local educators and community leaders to establish a common vision for PreK–16 student success.

Dr. Marrero’s past successes building university-wide efforts to create a collaborative culture of high performance, evidence-based leadership, and employee engagement will keep Georgia Southern at the forefront of higher education.

On behalf of Georgia’s 12th Congressional District, I want to thank Dr. Marrero for his leadership and congratulate him on his investment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House on Monday, October 21, 2019. Had I been present for Roll Call No. 568, I would have voted “nay” on the motion to table consideration of H. Res. 647, a resolution to condemn and censure Congressman ADAM SCHIFF for making false statements at the House Intelligence Committee hearing on September 26, 2019.

As a co-sponsor of the censuring resolution, I strongly support efforts to bring it to a vote on the House floor. Unfortunately, as my colleagues across the aisle continue to conduct an impeachment inquiry in secret, this is yet another example of their refusal to be transparent with the American people. Just as they have refused to go on record and vote on impeachment, my colleagues across the aisle are refusing to hold one of our colleagues accountable for making false and disparaging representations of the President of the United States. Congress has a Constitutional responsibility to be fair and transparent, and refusing to do so has very grave consequences for the future of our country.

We were all elected to the people’s house to work on behalf of the American people. Refusing to have a fair and open debate, as well as a recorded vote on H. Res. 647, is a severe disservice to the American people, and an affront to the democracy upon which our country was founded.

FULL UTILIZATION OF THE HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2440, the “Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act.”

H.R. 2440 creates a discretionary spending limit adjustment for full utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to ensure that funds are used to support navigation and maintain federally authorized harbors.

This bill makes certain amounts in the trust fund available, without appropriation, to pay 100 percent of the eligible operations and maintenance costs of specified portions of the Saint Lawrence Seaway and up to 100% of the eligible operations and maintenance costs assigned to commercial navigation of all U.S. harbors and inland harbors.

The Harbor Maintenance Tax and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund were established in 1986 to fund the operation and maintenance of Federal ports and harbors.

The Harbor Maintenance Tax is charged against the value of imports and domestic cargo arriving at U.S. ports that have federally-maintained harbors and channels and deposited into the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

Appropriations from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are primarily used for maintenance dredging, dredged material disposal areas, jetties, and breakwaters.

Since 2002, there has been a growing gap between the annual amount of Harbor Maintenance Tax collected and the annual amount of appropriations from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

According to the Department of Commerce in 2012, Texas exports totaled $265 billion.

In Houston, one of the greatest engines the local and national economy is the port.

The Port of Houston is a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities located just a few hours’ sailing time from the Gulf of Mexico.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, and the former chair of the Transportation Security Subcommittee, I understand that the challenge of protecting our nation’s vital assets such as transportation infrastructure requires the finest technology and the highest levels of intelligence.

With the nation’s largest petrochemical complex supplying over 40 percent of the nation’s base petrochemical manufacturing capacity, what happens at the Port of Houston affects the entire nation.

The Port Commissioners and the Port Authority staff are keenly aware of their role in ensuring that this investment in human ingenuity and economic power receives the protection it needs.

We have the best emergency response vessel available to Houston to protect this national asset and treasure.

While the Port of Houston generates between $70–$100 million per year in HMT revenues and needs $50–$60 million for maintenance dredging per year, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is typically allocated only $30 million for dredging in the Houston Ship Channel, causing severe draft restrictions which greatly affects ship traffic negatively in the Ship Channel.

It is critical for the United States Congress to address this issue and ensure that funds are spent to support navigation and maintain federally authorized harbors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2440 to ensure that monies collected into the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are able to be spent for our critical port and harbor needs.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6205–S6259

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2722–2734.

Measures Reported:

- S. 1570, to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–155)
- S. 2044, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to establish an Aging Infrastructure Account, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to provide additional funds under that Act, to establish a review of flood control rule curves pilot project within the Bureau of Reclamation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–156)
- S. 2731, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy.

Measures Passed:

- Condemning the Horrific Attack in Dayton, Ohio: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 367, condemning the horrific attack in Dayton, Ohio, and expressing support and prayers for all those impacted by that tragedy, and the resolution was then agreed to.
- Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act: Senate passed S. 1678, to express United States support for Taiwan’s diplomatic alliances around the world, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.
- United States-Japan Alliance: Senate agreed to S. Res. 183, reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.
- United States-Tunisia Partnership: Senate agreed to S. Res. 236, reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms.

Argentine Israelite Mutual Association Jewish Community Center Attack: Senate agreed to S. Res. 277, remembering the 25th Anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the 85 victims of the attack.

Measures Considered:

- Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 3055, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:
  - Pending:
    - Shelby Amendment No. 948, in the nature of a substitute.
    - McConnell (for Shelby) Amendment No. 950, to make a technical correction.
- State Relief and Empowerment Waivers—Agreement: Senate began consideration of S.J. Res. 52, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to “State Relief and Empowerment Waivers”, after agreeing to the motion to proceed.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that debate time for the joint resolution expire at 12:15 p.m., on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Monday, October 28, 2019, ripen following disposition of the joint resolution.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the joint resolution at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:
Measures Read the First Time: Page S6240
Enrolled Bills Presented: Pages S6240–41
Executive Communications: Page S6241
Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S6241–42
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S6243–45
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S6245–47
Additional Statements: Pages S6239–40
Amendments Submitted: Pages S6247–54
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S6254
Privileges of the Floor: Page S6254
Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:41 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S6235.)

Committee Meetings
(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS
Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Lisa W. Hershman, of Indiana, to be Chief Management Officer, who was introduced by Senator Young, Dana S. Deasy, of Virginia, to be Chief Information Officer, and Robert John Sander, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING
Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 1,780 nominations in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

BOEING 737 MAX
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine aviation safety and the future of Boeing’s 737 MAX, after receiving testimony from Robert L. Sumwalt, III, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; Christopher A. Hart, Chairman, Joint Authorities Technical Review; and Dennis Muilenburg, The Boeing Company, Chicago, Illinois.

NOMINATIONS
Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Roxanne Cabral, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kelly C. Degnan, of California, to be Ambassador to Georgia, Robert S. Gilchrist, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania, and Yuri Kim, of Guam, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community. Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 4894–4912; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 659–662, were introduced. Pages H8594–95
Additional Cosponsors: Pages H8595–97
Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:
H.R. 3398, to provide low-income individuals with opportunities to enter and follow a career pathway in the health professions, to extend and expand demonstration projects, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–265). Page H8594

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Pocan to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H8543

Recess: The House recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. Page H8548

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rabbi Evan Hoffman, Congregation Anshe Sholom, New Rochelle, New York. Page H8548

Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act, Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, and Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 656, providing for consideration of the
bill (H.R. 823) to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1373) to protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2181) to provide for the withdrawal and protection of certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 589, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 589.

Affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide: The House agreed to H. Res. 296, affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide, by a yea-and-nay vote of 405 yeas to 11 nays with 3 answering “present”, Roll No. 591.

H. Res. 655, the rule providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 296) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 588, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 587.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act: H.R. 4695, amended, to impose sanctions with respect to Turkey, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 403 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 592;

Help America Run Act: H.R. 1623, amended, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure;

SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act: H. Res. 107, amended, establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Members of the House of Representatives of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury;

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Members of the House of Representatives of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty or certain veterans who die from service-connected disabilities.”; and

Expositions Provide Opportunities Act of 2019: H.R. 4842, amended, to authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai.

Senate Referral: S. 134 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H8559.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8557, H8557–58, H8558–59, H8559, H8583–84, and H8584–85. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FUTURE OF DEFENSE TASK FORCE HEARING: THEORIES OF VICTORY

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Future of Defense Task Force Hearing: Theories of Victory”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 4674, the “College Affordability Act”.

REPURPOSING THE C-BAND TO BENEFIT ALL AMERICANS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Repurposing the C-Band to Benefit all Americans”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROTECTING THE RFS: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S ABUSE OF SECRET WAIVERS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “Protecting the RFS: The Trump Administration’s Abuse of Secret Waivers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZATION BRAND USA AND THE U.S. SAFE WEB ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce held a hearing entitled “Reauthorization Brand USA and the U.S. SAFE WEB Act”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY: A REVIEW OF DISCRIMINATION IN LENDING AND HOUSING

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Financial Services and the LGBTQ+ Community: A Review of Discrimination in Lending and Housing”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 4458, the “Cybersecurity and Financial System Resilience Act”; H.R. 4634, the “Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2019”; H.R. 4841, the “Prudential Regulator Oversight Act”; and H.R. 4863, the “United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019”.

THE FY20 BUDGET: EXAMINING THE ADMINISTRATION’S POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR A TURBULENT MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism held a hearing entitled “The FY20 Budget: Examining the Administration’s Policy Objectives for a Turbulent Middle East”. Testimony was heard from David Schenker, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State; and Michael T. Harvey, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for the Middle East, U.S. Agency for International Development.

ONE YEAR LATER: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TSA MODERNIZATION ACT


ANTITRUST AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY: COMPETITION IN LABOR MARKETS

Committee on The Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law held a hearing entitled “Antitrust and Economic Opportunity: Competition in Labor Markets”. Testimony was heard from Noah Phillips, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission; Doha Mekki, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice; Rahul Rao, Assistant Attorney General, Washington State Office of the Attorney General; and public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING


THE IMPACT OF CURRENT IMMIGRATION POLICIES ON SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Committee on The Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship held a hearing entitled “The Impact of Current Immigration Policies on Service Members and Veterans, and their Families”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 139, the “Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument Act”; H.R. 486, the “Chicano Park Preservation Act”; H.R. 3250, the “Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools Act of 2019”; H.R. 3824, the “Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act”; and H.R. 4139, to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Representatives Rodney Davis of Illinois, Vargas, Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Vela, and Bost; R. David Vela, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Juan Mendez III, Mayor, Brownsville, Texas; and public witnesses.

A SEA OF PROBLEMS: IMPACTS OF PLASTIC POLLUTION ON OCEANS AND WILDLIFE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “A Sea of Problems: Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Oceans and Wildlife”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TRUMP’S WRONG TURN ON CLEAN CARS: THE EFFECTS OF FUEL EFFICIENCY ROLLBACKS ON THE CLIMATE, CAR COMPANIES AND CALIFORNIA

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Trump’s Wrong Turn on Clean Cars: The Effects of Fuel Efficiency Rollbacks on the Climate, Car Companies and...
California”. Testimony was heard from Senator Whitehouse; Samuel Liccardo, Mayor, San José, California; and public witnesses.

CREATING THE CLEAN ENERGY WORKFORCE

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “Creating the Clean Energy Workforce”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1497, the “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019”; H.R. 4719, the “FISH SAFE Act”; and H. Con. Res. 37, expressing support for designation of October 28 as “Honoring the Nation’s First Responders Day”. H.R. 1497 and H.R. 4719 were ordered reported, as amended. H. Con. Res. 37 was ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4852, the “GIVE Act”; H.R. 4356, the “Protecting Families of Fallen Servicemembers Act”; H.R. 4183, the “Identifying Barriers and Best Practices Study Act”; H.R. 4360, the “VA Overpayment Accountability Act”; H.R. 3996, the “VA Design-Build Construction Enhancement Act of 2019”; H.R. 1424, the “Fallen Warrior Battlefield Cross Memorial Act”; H.R. 3224, the “Deborah Sampson Act”; H.R. 4771, to permit appellants to appear in disability compensation cases before the Board of Veterans Appeals by picture and voice transmission from locations other than VA facilities; H.R. 2227, the “Gold Star Spouses and Spouses of Injured Servicemembers Leasing Relief Expansion Act of 2019”; and H.R. 3530, the “Improving Confidence in Veterans Care Act”. H.R. 4771, H.R. 2227, H.R. 4183, H.R. 3530, and H.R. 3224 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 4852, H.R. 4356, H.R. 4360, H.R. 3996, H.R. 1424, were ordered reported, without amendment.

PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS AND PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY: IS VA DOING ITS JOB?

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Protecting Whistleblowers and Promoting Accountability: Is VA Doing Its Job?”. Testimony was heard from Tamara Bonzanto, Assistant Secretary for Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Michael Missal, Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, 2 p.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine the use of technology and innovation to increase water security and enable economic development in the West, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Sean O’Donnell, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine Medicaid, focusing on compliance with eligibility requirements, 2 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John Joseph Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, to hold hearings to examine the unauthorized and unaccountable government, 1:45 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, and Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Philip M. Halpern, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine promoting the useful arts, focusing on how Congress can prevent the issuance of poor quality patents, 2 p.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4895, to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 9:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research, hearing entitled “Reviewing the State of Organic Agriculture—Producer Perspectives”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 4674, the “College Affordability Act”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Safeguarding Pharmaceutical
Supply Chains in a Global Economy”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Solutions for the U.S. Power Sector”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.


Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2153, the “Keeping Girls in School Act”; H. Res. 189, recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development’s commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy; H. Res. 230, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children; H.R. 1771, the “Divided Families Reunification Act”; H. Res. 410, encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American families; H. Res. 349, reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond; H.R. 4754, the “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019”; S. 178, the “Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019”; H. Res. 585, reaffirming support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland; H.R. 554, the “Saudi Educational Transparency and Reform Act of 2019”; H.R. 2881, the “Secure 5G and Beyond Act of 2019”; H.R. 3763, the “Promoting United States International Leadership in 5G Act of 2019”; H. Res. 446, reaffirming German-American friendship and cooperation under the Wunderbar Together-Germany and the U.S. initiative; H.R. 1819, the “War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act”; H.R. 4802, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards under the Department of State’s reward program relating to information regarding individuals or entities engaged in activities in contravention of United States or United Nations sanctions, and for other purposes; H.R. 4862, the “United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act”; H. Res. 649, expressing the support of the United States for the grassroots development programs the Inter-American Foundation has undertaken for the past 50 years; and H. Res. 546, disapproving the Russian Federation’s inclusion in future Group of Seven summits until it respects the territorial integrity of its neighbors and adheres to the standards of democratic societies, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Global Terrorism: Threats to the Homeland, Part II”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Sexual Harassment at the Department of the Interior”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.


Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “The Administration’s Decision to Deport Critically Ill Children and Their Families”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H. Res. 660, directing certain committees to continue their ongoing investigations as part of the existing House of Representatives inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, and for other purposes [Original Jurisdiction Markup], 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.


Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Boeing 737 MAX: Examining the Design, Development, and Marketing of the Aircraft”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.


Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “Preparing for Blue Water Claims—VA Status Update on Implementation”, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Solving the Climate Crisis: Opportunities in Agriculture”, 2:30 p.m., 210 Cannon.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Wednesday, October 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of S.J. Res. 52, State Relief and Empowerment Waivers, and vote on the joint resolution at 12:15 p.m.

Following disposition of S.J. Res. 52, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Shelby Amendment No. 948, to H.R. 3055, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, October 30

House Chamber


Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

Graves, Sam, Mo., E1357, E1359, E1360, E1361
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E1358, E1360, E1362, E1364, E1366, E1367
Joyce, John, Pa., E1364, E1366
Katko, John, N.Y., E1358
Kelly, Trent, Miss., E1363
Kind, Ron, Wisc., E1363
Kuster, Ann M., N.H., E1360
Lieu, Ted, Calif., E1363
Malinowski, Tom, N.J., E1362
McEachin, A. Donald, Va., E1359, E1362
McGovern, James P., Mass., E1357
Peterson, Collin C., Minn., E1361
Posey, Bill, Fla., E1357
Rooney, Francis, Fla., E1361
Rose, Max, N.Y., E1363
Scalise, Steve, La., E1367
Shalala, Donna E., Fla., E1359
Shimkus, John, Ill., E1362, E1365, E1366
Timmons, William R., IV, S.C., E1362
Trab, Rashida, Mich., E1361, E1362, E1363
Velasquez, Peter J., Ind., E1364
Walorski, Jackie, Ind., E1366
Zeldin, Lee M., N.Y., E1365

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