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No. 171

## House of Representatives

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 dowsing 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, Vir-

ginia 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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huge 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 nearly 150,000 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 will lower the cost of college and improve higher education for students of all backgrounds, because right now students are paying increasingly more for an education that is giving them less.

I know that because I have heard it. I have heard from constituents in my district that we need to do better when it comes to the rising cost of tuition and the overall quality of higher education.

That is why I am taking action. Since coming to Congress, I have worked closely with my colleagues on the Education and Labor Committee to lead four pieces of legislation that will be included in this act.

The legislation will expand educational opportunities for all individuals impacted by the criminal justice

system, dedicate more resources for prevention and treatment of alcohol and substance abuse on college campuses, strengthen grants for teachers and school leaders around recruitment and retention, and establish a commission to study mental health issues facing college students.

These measures as well as others are what make the College Affordability Act a down payment on our higher education system that just makes sense.

I urge swift passage for 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 Piasecki 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 High 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 skated 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 Director of Government Affairs for 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, Avery and Bennet.

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 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.

Ashley, 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 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.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING VINCE HOLLAND,  
MATT BOYD, MATT CONNOLLY,  
BILLY DONAHUE

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 are shining examples of the saying, “to live is to serve.”

HONORING STEVE TAMAYO FOR  
LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION TO NA-  
TIVE 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 to restore what 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 1988, his first 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 art and regalia, 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's 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, the 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 Indigenous 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 2014, 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. Many people 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 undercore, 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 speak for 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 around voting as we wrote 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 compromised his principles, 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 trample in this committee, 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, when so many 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 a free 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

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 of it. They are truly 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. Those Supreme Court decisions 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 country to demand and defend the freedom of such a priceless heritage.”

What a wonderful sentiment from a young person.

Free press, we must cherish and protect it as a most American of values and as one of the most 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 said now 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 they were ready 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 threats.

Great alliance? It has been a great alliance for Turkey. We defended them from communism. We defended them from the Soviet Union. We provided them \$23 billion in aid. And we are the reason why there is not an independent Kurdistan in northern Iraq.

They shelled to the left; they shelled to the right of an American military outpost.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire massacred 1.5 million Armenians, the first genocide of the 20th century. There is no doubt that this occurred. Even the administration testified before our committee last week.

The massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915, et cetera, was one of the greatest crimes of the 20th century, and this is not in dispute. There is no dispute that that mass death constituted a genocide because Raphael Lemkin, who invented the word “genocide,” said the Armenian genocide was an example—the first example, perhaps—of what he was talking about.

It is time that we recognize the genocide because genocide denial is the last act of the genocide. First, you obliterate a people; then, you seek to obliterate their memory; and, finally, you seek to obliterate the memory of the obliteration.

But genocide denial is also the first step in the next genocide. When Hitler’s cadres wondered whether they could get away with the Holocaust, he assured them: Who today speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?

And it is time to recognize this genocide to remove a stain on America’s honor because, up until now, we have hidden and refused to acknowledge the truth. We have been silent, all in an effort to appease Turkey.

Turkey committed a genocide in World War I and denies it to this day. Germany committed a genocide during World War II and has acknowledged it from the 1940s.

Germany has moved on to be a prosperous and strong democracy. Turkey continues to deny the genocide, then passes law prohibiting the discussion of the genocide; and that leads to censorship, authoritarianism, undercuts the rule of law, leads to corruption and a country that has great problems.

Where would Germany be if it denied the Holocaust to this day? Where would we be if we denied the genocide of so many Native American Tribes?

Turkey will be a great ally of the United States only when it recognizes the first genocide of the 20th century, only when it allows free discussion of its own history by its own people.

So, today is the right day to recognize the first genocide of the 20th century. We should have done it earlier. We should do it every year on the anniversary in April. But it starts here and now, and, finally, America can stand up along with so many other countries that have recognized that genocide.

#### BILLS ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address two critical bills that would mandate studies to examine, one, whether tasers are a safer alternative to firearms and, two, how innovative technology can enhance the safety of firearms.

My bill, H.R. 4740, the TASER Access, Safety, and Effectiveness Review Study Act, or TASERS Act, will direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to coordinate a multiagency study comparing the effectiveness and the safety of firearms and of tasers. By studying tasers, Mr. Speaker, we can determine whether they can be a safe, effective, and, most importantly, non-lethal weapon of self-defense.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4784 would direct the National Institute of Justice to update its 2013 study on gun safety technologies. The 2013 NIJ study noted that several innovative gun-locking technologies were close to coming onto the market in our Nation.

Newer gun-locking or smart-gun technologies require fingerprints or other advanced mechanisms to unlock the firearms. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, vehement protests and inaccurate information about drastic cost increases from the gun lobby have prevented this technology from becoming widely available.

Mr. Speaker, smart-gun technology has the potential to stop firearms from being used by those who shouldn’t possess them. A 2019 Department of Justice survey found that 56 percent of prisoners who possessed a firearm during their offense obtained it through illicit channels. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, a study in the *American Journal of Public Health* concluded that over 1,500 stolen guns were recovered in connection with violent crimes between 2010 and 2016.

Updating the Department of Justice’s 2013 study would be a critical step forward into determining how smart-gun technology can be incorporated into the multifaceted approach needed to reduce gun violence.

Congress must always seek to harness the power of innovation and innovative technology to make Americans safer. The studies these bills would mandate are a critical first step in evaluating how we can use technology and innovation to prevent gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor both of these measures and encourage

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.

□ 1045

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, as 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 to order 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 is an accomplished author, writing the weekly essay series titled "Thoughts on the Parashah," as well as the editor of English language publications for Talmud Israeli.

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, Eliyahu 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.

This 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 Christmastime, 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 AC-  
CESSIBLE 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 reaching 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, 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 interest, and rich history.

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. 2181, CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT OF 2019; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 1, 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 in the State of Colorado, 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 amendments specified in this section 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. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, modified by the amend-

ment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as 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 provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question 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 for amendment 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 region in the State 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 an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on

the bill and amendments 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. 2181) 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 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. The amendment printed in part D of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part E of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question 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 for amendment 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. 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.

## GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman 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 Economy 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 do. They represent the culmination of years of 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 approxi-

mately 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 south 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.

□ 1230

H.R. 823 withdraws areas in Colorado from mineral development. This bill particularly impacts its Third Congressional District, represented by Congressman 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 misguided.

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 my 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 salary 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 28 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 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 gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, this resolution would affirm that States should maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing and prevent any President from imposing a ban on hydraulic fracturing.

In recent weeks, many of the Democratic candidates for President have pledged to ban hydraulic fracturing in the United States, a campaign promise straight out of 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 introduction of hydraulic fracturing techniques, U.S. gas bills fell by \$13 billion collectively every year from 2007–2013.

All the while, natural gas production using fracking is driving emissions reductions, resulting in the lowest emission levels in a generation. In fact, methane emissions have decreased 15 percent since 1990 as natural gas production increased over 50 percent.

Thanks to hydraulic fracturing, the U.S. is leading the way in emissions reductions through innovation in the energy sector. In 2017, U.S. carbon emissions reached the 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 countries for oil and gas. Remember the 1970s? We do not want to put our country in a national security risk.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the bills before us today are harmful to American jobs, American quality of life, and American security. The message underlying these bills is the false notion that domestic energy production is harmful.

I cannot disagree more. Domestic energy 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 economy and for our national security. We should encourage an expansion of domestic energy production, but, instead, 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 Coloradans, 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 following:

SEC. 8. That immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall resolve into the Committee of the Whole House 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 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. 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 controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. 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 recommendation that the resolution be adopted, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and amendments thereto to adoption without intervening 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 XIV, resolve into the 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 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.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 655 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 655

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider 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 considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion 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 gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

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 gentleman 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.

This 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 Armenian genocide. And let me say, it is about time. 1.5 million Armenians died at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in the emerging Nation of Turkey over a century ago. Tens of thousands of Armenians 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 reality. Some of our Nation’s closest allies already have—31 nations, in fact—countries like Canada, Italy, France, Poland, Sweden, Germany, even Russia have recognized this genocide.

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

United States stands out; and I say that with great sadness.

White House statements and Congressional resolutions over the years have referred to mass atrocities and other euphemisms; but nothing in recent times has fully recognized it by 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 I was first elected in 1996, we had rows and rows of 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 eyewitness to genocide.

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.”

□ 1245

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 northern 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 courageous 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 capable of 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 still care.

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 such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, we consider a resolution to once again assert the position of the House of Representatives with respect to the Armenian genocide that occurred between 1915 and 1923. This resolution cites previous United States recognition of the killing of Armenians, including in 1951, 1975, 1981, and 1984.

Numerous resolutions have been introduced in the House and Senate that did not pass both Chambers. In addition, Congress has twice designated April 24 as a National Day of Remembrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man, specifically referencing Armenia. The United States has clearly indicated its support to the Armenians.

While there is historic precedent for recognizing the Armenian genocide, passing such a resolution today could complicate the situation with a NATO ally. Previously, this has resulted in protests at and around the Incirlik Air Base that have affected our men and women in uniform who were stationed there.

While the desire to recognize the Armenian genocide is laudable, these events took place over 100 years ago. It remains unclear why we are urgently considering this resolution. The Committee on Foreign Affairs did not conduct a hearing or hold a markup before

we voted last night in the Rules Committee to bring this to the floor today. Representative SCHIFF introduced this resolution on April 8 of this year, 2019, so we are left to wonder why we wait until there are 11 legislative days until expiration of the continuing resolution to fund the entirety of the Government of the United States on the discretionary side, why we are willing to suspend that to consider a nonbinding resolution.

Democrats continue to bring to the floor legislation that is either not urgent or has no chance of passing the Senate and becoming law. There are bipartisan policy areas in which Republicans stand ready to work with Democrats for the benefit of the American people. The most pressing issue, of course, is the continuing resolution expiration.

While the House did pass 10 of the 12 appropriations bills, they were constructed largely without Republican input on the Appropriations Committee, resulting in highly partisan provisions that actually prevented any Republicans from being able to support these bills when they came to the floor.

One of the most important appropriations bills providing funding for the Department of Homeland Security has not received consideration by the full House. We are facing a humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border. That is real. That is right now. This situation got so bad in early summer that Congress had to pass a supplemental appropriations bill to last year’s appropriation just to provide the basic necessities for those in the Customs and Border Protection custody. While this temporary funding influx helped alleviate a number of people in our border facilities and the Office of Refugee Resettlement shelters, it did not make any policy changes that would actually address the root cause of this crisis.

If Democrats are unwilling to provide funding to secure our border, we should consider disincentivizing people from making the dangerous journey in the first place. There are people who die along the way. Others are seriously injured or become ill. Still others become victims of human trafficking.

Additionally, the cartels are profiting big time off of these vulnerable individuals, taking a cut from two-thirds of southern border flows. The penalty for not paying off the cartel is death. Rather than incentivize this type of activity, could we not focus our efforts on combating the drivers of irregular migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras? We can also send a message that if you come to the United States without legal documentation, you will not be permitted to remain herein definitely.

To change this, Congress could pass a bill to reform our asylum laws and provide more resources to clear the backlog of immigration cases, a backlog that is approaching 1 million cases.

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 costs for our seniors in Medicare part D. This is a policy that we can and 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 resources for new 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 that 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 home 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 brings 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 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 China.

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 delaying action 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. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 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 it is not the official policy of the 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 ESHOO, movingly and tearfully talked about her family's experiences during that time, when she lost ancestors and her parents came 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.

□ 1300

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 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 their Armenian friends 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 fled in unseemly haste. Great ally.

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, because 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, he was able to assure them: 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, all in an effort at appeasement.

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 appeasement 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 Museum. I cannot get the pictures that I saw out of my mind: Armenian women and children murdered in mass graves, Armenian leaders hung as examples to others, Armenians forced onto long death marches without food or water.

There were 1.5 million Armenians killed in this genocide in 1915. I saw the documents of the many who had witnessed it, including U.S. diplomat Henry Morgenthau, and yet over 100 years later, the U.S. has never officially acknowledged it.

This vote to finally acknowledge the Armenian genocide should have come sooner, because of people in my district like Joseph "Bebo" Manjikian. When I met him, he was 104, but from his wheelchair, he told me about the many family members he lost in the genocide. Bebo passed away before he could see this day. He didn't forget them, and neither can we.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of Bebo and so many others, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MCGOVERN for bringing this rule up today, and I rise in support of the rule to bring up the Armenian genocide resolution.

As JUDY CHU said—and I just came back from Armenia at the same time—we were at the genocide memorial in Yerevan. 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 SPEIER.

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 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks over 104 years after it took place.

For too long, Congress has failed to recognize the indisputable fact that the Ottoman Turks perpetrated the first genocide of the 20th century. This crime against humanity would serve as the blueprint for other genocides in the Nazi concentration camps and massacres in Poland, Germany, and eastern Europe and, more recently, in Bosnia and Rwanda.

Today, we will finally acknowledge what historians have documented with clear evidence: that the Turkish campaign of slaughter and forced displacement of millions of Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, and other religious minorities was, in fact, a genocide.

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 also 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 working across the aisle to finally push 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 is the main author of this; but our colleague in the Rules Committee, Congresswoman LESKO, 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 politicized, 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. SANCHEZ).

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 descendants 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, for 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.

□ 1315

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 shone 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 so we don't end up in another 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 previously outlined, 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 our side who wanted to speak. 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, 2019, 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;

Ordering 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:

[Roll No. 587]

YEAS—224

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amash  
Axne  
Barragán  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brindisi  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clever  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cunningham  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
Deutsch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Español  
Evans  
Finkenauber  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
García (IL)  
García (TX)  
Golden

NAYS—189

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderston  
Banks  
Barr  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Billirakis  
Bishop (NC)  
Bishop (UT)

Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Grijalva  
Haaland  
Harder (CA)  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Lamb  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loebbeck  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lujan  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCollum  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeke  
Meng  
Moore  
Morelle  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar

Fleischmann  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foy (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hagedorn  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Katko  
Keller  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)

King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Lesko  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Marshall  
Massie  
Mast  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
Meadows  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Murphy (NC)  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (SC)  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)

NOT VOTING—18

Bass  
Beatty  
Cartwright  
Davis, Rodney  
Gabbard  
Hice (GA)  
Hill (CA)  
Huffman  
Long  
Marchant  
McEachin  
Moulton  
Ryan  
Thompson (CA)  
Timmons  
Williams  
Wright

□ 1352

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 223, nays 191, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 588]

YEAS—223

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amash  
Axne  
Barragán  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brindisi  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield

Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clever  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa

Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cunningham  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier

Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Espallat  
Evans  
Finkenauer  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Grijalva  
Haaland  
Harder (CA)  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Lamb  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)

Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loebsock  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lujan  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCollum  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Morelle  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Payne  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond

NAYS—191

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (NC)  
Bishop (UT)  
Bost  
Brady  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Cline  
Cloud  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Cook  
Crawford

Crenshaw  
Curtis  
Davidson (OH)  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ferguson  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foxx (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hagedorn  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)

Rose (NY)  
Rouda  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schradler  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Speier  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Suoizzi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres Small  
(NM)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wexton  
Wild  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Katko  
Keller  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Lesko  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luettkemeyer  
Marshall  
Massie  
Mast  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
Meadows  
Meuser  
Miller

Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Murphy (NC)  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pascrell  
Pence  
Perry  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (SC)  
Rigglesman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)

Bass  
Beatty  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Marchant  
Davis, Rodney  
Gabbard

NOT VOTING—17

Hice (GA)  
Hill (CA)  
Huffman  
Marchant  
McEachin  
Moulton

□ 1401

So the resolution was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (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, and for other purposes; 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 for other purposes; 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; and providing for proceedings during the period from November 1, 2019, through November 11, 2019, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

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

[Roll No. 589]

YEAS—222

Adams	Golden	Omar
Aguilar	Gomez	Pallone
Allred	Gonzalez (TX)	Panetta
Axne	Gottheimer	Pappas
Barragán	Green, Al (TX)	Pascrell
Bera	Grijalva	Payne
Beyer	Haaland	Perlmutter
Bishop (GA)	Harder (CA)	Peters
Blumenauer	Hastings	Peterson
Blunt Rochester	Hayes	Phillips
Bonamici	Heck	Pingree
Boyle, Brendan	Higgins (NY)	Pocan
F.	Himes	Porter
Brindisi	Horsford	Pressley
Brown (MD)	Houlihan	Price (NC)
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer	Quigley
Bustos	Jackson Lee	Raskin
Butterfield	Jayapal	Rice (NY)
Carbajal	Jeffries	Richmond
Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)	Rose (NY)
Carson (IN)	Johnson (TX)	Rouda
Case	Kaptur	Royal-Allard
Casten (IL)	Keating	Ruiz
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Kennedy	Rush
Chu, Judy	Khanna	Sánchez
Ciциlline	Kildee	Sarbanes
Cisneros	Kilmer	Scanlon
Clark (MA)	Kim	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kind	Schiff
Clay	Kirkpatrick	Schneider
Cleaver	Krishnamoorthi	Schradler
Clyburn	Kuster (NH)	Schrier
Cohen	Lamb	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Langevin	Scott, David
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Correa	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Costa	Lawrence	Shalala
Courtney	Lawson (FL)	Sherman
Cox (CA)	Lee (CA)	Sherrill
Craig	Lee (NV)	Sires
Crist	Levin (CA)	Slotkin
Crow	Levin (MI)	Smith (WA)
Cuellar	Lewis	Soto
Cunningham	Lieu, Ted	Spanberger
Davids (KS)	Lipinski	Speier
Davis (CA)	Loebsock	Stanton
Davis, Danny K.	Lofgren	Stevens
Dean	Lowenthal	Suoizzi
DeFazio	Lowe	Swalwell (CA)
DeGette	Luján	Takano
DeLauro	Luria	Thompson (MS)
DelBene	Lynch	Titus
Delgado	Malinowski	Tlaib
Demings	Maloney,	Tonko
DeSaulnier	Carolyn B.	Torres (CA)
Deutch	Maloney, Sean	Trahan
Dingell	Matsui	Trone
Doggett	McAdams	Underwood
Doyle, Michael	McBath	Vargas
F.	McCollum	Veasey
Engel	McGovern	Vela
Escobar	McNerney	Velázquez
Eshoo	Meeks	Visclosky
Espallat	Meng	Wasserman
Evans	Moore	Schultz
Finkenauer	Morelle	Waters
Fletcher	Mucarsel-Powell	Watson Coleman
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Frankel	Nadler	Wexton
Fudge	Napolitano	Wild
Gaetz	Neal	Wilson (FL)
Gallego	Neguse	Yarmuth
Garamendi	Norcross	
Garcia (IL)	O'Halleran	
Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	

NAYS—191

Abraham	Biggs	Byrne
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Calvert
Allen	Bishop (NC)	Carter (GA)
Amash	Bishop (UT)	Chabot
Amodei	Bost	Cheney
Armstrong	Brady	Cline
Arrington	Brooks (AL)	Cloud
Babin	Brooks (IN)	Cole
Bacon	Buchanan	Collins (GA)
Baird	Buck	Comer
Balderson	Bucshon	Conaway
Banks	Budd	Cook
Barr	Burchett	Crawford
Bergman	Burgess	Crenshaw

Curtis  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis, Rodney  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ferguson  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Fox (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hagedorn  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Joyce (OH)

NOT VOTING—18

Bass  
Beatty  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Gabbard  
Hice (GA)

□ 1409

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 187, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 590]

YEAS—221

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Axne  
Barragán  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brindisi

Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros

Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Shimkus  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Lesko  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Marshall  
Massie  
Mast  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
Meadows  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Murphy (NC)  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Posey  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (SC)  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.

NOT VOTING—18

Hill (CA)  
Huffman  
Jordan  
Marchant  
McEachin  
Moulton

□ 1409

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 187, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 590]

YEAS—221

Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Castor  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crist

Crow  
Cuellar  
Cunningham  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Español  
Evans  
Finkenauer  
Fletcher  
Fudge  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
García (IL)  
García (TX)  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Grijalva  
Haaland  
Harder (CA)  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer

Ratcliffe  
Ryan  
Thompson (CA)  
Timmons  
Williams  
Wright

□ 1409

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 187, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 590]

YEAS—221

Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros

Kim  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Lamb  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Español  
Luján  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCollum  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeke  
Meng  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan

Ratcliffe  
Ryan  
Thompson (CA)  
Timmons  
Williams  
Wright

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Conaway  
Cook  
Crawford  
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Curtis  
Davidson (OH)  
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Diaz-Balart  
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Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman

Porter  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Rose (NY)  
Rouda  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schradler  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Speier  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Suozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres Small  
(NM)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
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Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
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Wexton  
Wild  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

Ratcliffe  
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McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
Meadows  
Meuser  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Murphy (NC)  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
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Pence  
Perry  
Posey  
Reed  
Reschenthaler

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Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman

Rice (SC)  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spano  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube

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Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman

Stewart  
Taylor  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tipton  
Turner  
Upton  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Walorski  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

Ratcliffe  
Ryan  
Thompson (CA)  
Timmons  
Williams  
Wright

□ 1409

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Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

Ratcliffe  
Ryan  
Thompson (CA)  
Timmons  
Williams  
Wright

□ 1409

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

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Ferguson  
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Fleischmann  
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Fortenberry  
Fox (NC)  
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Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman

NOT VOTING—23

Bass  
Beatty  
Burgess  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Frankel  
Gabbard  
Hice (GA)

Hill (CA)  
Huffman  
Jordan  
Marchant  
McEachin  
Miller  
Ratcliffe  
Ryan

Scanlon  
Stivers  
Thompson (CA)  
Timmons  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Williams  
Wright

□ 1416

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 29, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 29, 2019, at 10:58 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 134.  
With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,  
CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES RECORD ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 655, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 296) affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 655, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 296

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, and providing relief to the survivors 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 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";

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson encouraged the formation of the Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, which raised \$116,000,000 (over \$2,500,000,000 in 2019 dollars) between 1915 and 1930, 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 Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the 20th century;

Whereas, as displayed in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Adolf 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 United States has officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, through the United States Government's May 28, 1951, written statement to the International Court of Justice regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, through President Ronald Reagan's Proclamation No. 4838 on April 22, 1981, and by House Joint Resolution 148, adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247, adopted on September 10, 1984; and

Whereas the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-441) establishes that atrocities prevention represents a United States national interest, and affirms that it is the policy of the United States to pursue a United States Government-wide strategy to identify, prevent, and respond to the risk of atrocities by "strengthening diplomatic response and the effective use of foreign assistance to support appropriate transitional justice measures, including criminal accountability, for past atrocities": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that it is the policy of the United States to—

(1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance;

(2) reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the United States Government with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any other genocide; and

(3) 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H. Res. 296.

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, the resolution before us is an important measure to set 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. It 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, and the many other bipartisan champions of this issue for their persistent, steadfast pursuit of recognition for the suffering the Armenian people endured.

I strongly support this measure, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same. With its passage, we put Congress on the right side of history, properly acknowledging and condemning this horrific genocide.

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 he ordered the invasion of 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 Bonior, 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, reported the resolution out of 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 wisely notes that the United States has officially recognized the Armenian genocide through the U.S. Government's May 1951 written statement to the International Court of Justice regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide through President Ronald Reagan's proclamation, Number 4838, on April 22, 1981, and by H.J. Res. 148, adopted in 1975, and H.J. Res. 247, adopted in September of 1984.

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 Sachar, noted it "quite literally 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 underwrites 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, as we know, there were about 2 million Armenians living 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 remembrances 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 brother because he was a little sick. My 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 fits this to a T.

The definition says this: "Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such:

Killing members of the group;  
Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of that group;  
Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part. . . ."

□ 1430

In the case of the Armenians, it wasn't in part. It was in whole. They wanted the Armenians eviscerated from the face of the Earth.

Let me just point out to my colleagues, despite Turkish Government threats—and they do make threats. At my hearing, the Ambassador made threats in the year 2000. Frank remembers that. It was outrageous.

Well, 28 countries and 49 U.S. States, including my own State of New Jersey, have passed a law, resolution, or declaration recognizing the Armenian genocide.

I ask Members to support this resolution. It is bipartisan, and it needs to be done.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader.

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the chairman of the committee, for yielding. I thank Mr. SMITH for his career-long advocacy of human rights and protecting the most vulnerable, not only in this country but throughout the world.

Mr. SMITH and I had the opportunity to travel behind the Iron Curtain when it existed, talking about human rights, talking about the right to immigrate, the right to worship, the right to freedom of speech. We talked about the Helsinki Final Act. He and I were both members of the Helsinki Commission for a couple of decades together. He and I visited Turkey together, talking about particularly the freedom of the press and how many members and how many journalists were imprisoned.

Mr. SMITH, Mr. ENGEL, and I, and certainly Mr. SCHIFF, and so many others have been supporters of this resolution for a very long time. It has not come to the floor. One of my duties as the majority leader is to bring bills to the floor, and I am proud, along with the chairman and the ranking member, to bring this bill to the floor.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, recognizes the horrific and systematic efforts to commit genocide against the Armenian people a century ago. There can be no denial of the Armenian genocide, which is evidenced by historical documentation and the emotional scars still borne by the descendants 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 read 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 bill 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 says, 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 our attention focused on populations today that are being subjected to ethnic cleansing and forced relocation. From the Rohingya to the Uighurs,

from the people in Darfur to the Kurdish 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’s Representatives 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. SCHIFF. 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 is a vote that I have fought for 19 years to cast. My wonderful colleagues, ANNA ESHOO and JACKIE SPEIER, have fought far longer than I have. It is one that tens of thousands of my constituents, my Armenian American constituents, have waited decades to see. It is a moment that so many have worked and struggled and prayed for, a moment when the House of Rep-

resentatives refused to be enlisted in the cause of genocide denial.

This April would have marked the 104th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, the systematic murder of 1.5 million Armenians, and the displacement of millions more by 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 massive and industrial 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 lives and the loss of all they had known. As children, they were forced from their homes and saw their families beaten, raped, and murdered. 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 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 the aisle who have fought 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.

□ 1445

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 everyone that is part of, 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 formally recognized 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 the Armenian genocide memorial in Yerevan 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 her idea to bring 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 the Iraq and 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; it also provided an 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 Chairman 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.

104 years ago, 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 Cypress 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.

Ms. 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.

Elie Weisel once called denying genocide—and in particular, the Armenian genocide—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 festered 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 cosponsor 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 Syrians 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 Ottoman Turks 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. ENGEL. 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.

□ 1500

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 American military bases. 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 there 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, Germany 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 a modern nation only 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. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, 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 until you are free to discuss 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 perpetuated against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire between 1913 and 1925, 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 realtime by American diplomats and has been acknowledged in various forms by previous administrations and Congresses, the last in 1984.

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.

In Rhode 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 permanent 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.

In 1915, the Ottoman Empire, as we all know, embarked upon the systematic deportation and murder of 1.5 million Armenians. These innocent men, women, and children became the first genocide, as we know, in the 20th century.

Many of these survivors settled in my district in the San Joaquin Valley, where they lived and their children have enjoyed the blessings of liberty and lived the American Dream. This incredible, diverse valley that I have the honor to represent we sometimes refer to as the Land of William Saroyan, a noted Armenian author. And Fresno State University is the only university in the United States that has a memorial dedicated to the Armenian genocide, a very moving memorial to their ancestors.

Yet, this brutal atrocity has not received the official recognition it deserves. So, today, it is proper and fitting that we do so.

This is a moral issue. I call upon my colleagues to join me and more than 110 cosponsors in supporting this long overdue passage by the United States House of Representatives.

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. TED 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 Turkish countryside. No amount of revisionist history or lobbying 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 reserve the balance of 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 freedom-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 Kurdish people are a stark and brutal reminder of the danger in our own time.

That is why it is critical, year in and year out, to reaffirm our dedication to recognizing the Armenian genocide and to placing the U.S. Congress firmly on the side of honesty in our history.

For that, I thank Chairman SCHIFF, Chairman ENGEL, Congresswoman ESHOO, Armenian Caucus Co-chairs

PALLONE and SPEIER, 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 remembrance;

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

"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 urge a strong vote 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 SPEIER, Congresswoman ESHOO, 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 reserve the balance of 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.

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 de-

scend who continue to strengthen our country.

□ 1515

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 descendants 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 of Armenians 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 have reinforced what many of us have 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 Syria. 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 gentlewoman 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 ESHOO, and all of those, Mr. PALLONE, and of all the Members who have stood tall and strong, Mr. SMITH and Mr. ENGEL, for this very important statement.

Let me, as a member of the Armenian Caucus, indicate that I rise with a heavy heart, but I rise with an appreciation and an excitement that we have come to this point.

It is important to acknowledge that as this was occurring, 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. He 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 rise in support of finally having this Nation take this stand. Bloodshed and genocide should not be tolerated no matter how long we have come to that. And so I stand with the words that we now, therefore, will commemorate as the United States of America the Armenian genocide through official recognition and remembrance. We will reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the United States Government with the denial of the Armenian genocide or any other genocide.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the time both Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH, and I traveled to the Sudanese Embassy to protest the genocide in Darfur. We can do no less.

It is not just 10 years ago, it is more than 100 years ago, at least, that we saw this genocide. There is no embassy that maybe will arrest us now, but I say to Turkey: It is finally time for you to acknowledge this genocide. Tragically, you have restarted and reignited the dastardly acts of genocide against the Kurds.

I am glad today on this day that we are acknowledging that one genocide can be no worse than another genocide. Silence on one genocide is silence on all genocides.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to support H. Res. 296 to acknowledge the Armenian genocide by the United States of America.

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. 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."

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 and providing relief to the survivors of the campaign of genocide against Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syrians, Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian Genocide represents the first genocide of the 20th Century, where Ottoman Turkish authorities ordered the systematic annihilation of more than 1.5 million Armenians, and which Turkey carried out from 1915 to 1923 through massacres, deportations, and death marches where hundreds of thousands were herded into the Syrian Desert to die of thirst and starvation.

Sadly, to this day this chapter of history has yet to be admitted by the Government of Turkey.

Many international observers, including then Ambassador and later U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, witnessed the nightmare firsthand and reported detailed accounts of the atrocities to their governments.

Respected organizations and eminent scholars and historians agree and recognize the Armenian Genocide, including the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and the renowned International Association of Genocide Scholars.

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 remembered so that it will never be repeated.

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.

As a Member of Congress, I believe this is not only an affront to the memory of the victims and to 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 humankind 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 indiscriminately by 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

and infirm marchers died in this way during the march. This significantly reduced numbers of marchers who, upon finally making it into the Syrian desert, were put into concentration camps and then released into the scorching desert with no food or water and to a certain death.

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 dare to 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, Argentina, Lithuania, 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 people—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: "Armenian 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 and Members of Congress, I hope, will stand up and say that word.

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 a century of denial, obfuscation, and lies 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 measure, 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 then 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 help 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 inte-

gration 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.

Mrs. 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 this 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 of this tragedy.

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 Morgenthau, 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.

Many of the Armenians who fled this crisis immigrated to the United States where they found the freedom and prosperity that our nation provides. The descendants of these genocide survivors have created the strong, vibrant, and patriotic Armenian-American community that our nation is blessed with today. We must honor the sacrifice of their forefathers and reaffirm the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide.

I would like to thank the many advocates in and outside of Congress who have played an integral role in this 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 yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1530

**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 are ordered, or votes objected 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:

H.R. 4695

*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 “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 is treaty bound to safeguard the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law and, importantly, should be united with other NATO allies in efforts for 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 United States and allied counter-ISIS and broader counterterrorism 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 the Governments of the Russian Federation and Iran 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 section 14 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 and appropriate congressional committees 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, complicit in, 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.—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.

(3) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Not later than 15 days after submission of the list required under paragraph (1) and each update relating thereto in accordance with paragraph (2), the President shall impose the sanctions described in section 14 with respect to foreign persons identified in such list and related updates.

(c) 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—

(A) determines that—

(i) it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to do so; and

(ii) Turkey—

(I) has halted attacks against the SDF, Kurdish and Arab civilians, and other reli-

gious and ethnic minority communities in northern Syria; and

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

(B) 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 WAIVERS.—The President may, on a case-by-case basis, renew a waiver 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 submits to the appropriate congressional committees a justification relating to such determination.

**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) NO USE OF EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.—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 transfer 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 and appropriate congressional committees a list of any foreign persons determined to knowingly have provided, on or after such date of enactment, defense articles, defense services, or technology (as such terms are defined and described in the Arms Export Control Act) to the Government of Turkey if such articles, services, or technology could be used in operations by the Turkish Armed Forces in northern Syria.

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

(b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—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 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 WAIVERS.—The President may, on a case-by-case basis, renew a waiver

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 President shall impose the sanctions described in section 14(1) with respect to Halk Bankasi or Halkbank or any successor entity thereof.

(b) **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**—

(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 60 days after any such determination, 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 sanctions under this subsection if the President—

(i) determines that—

(I) it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to do so; and

(II) Turkey—

(aa) 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) **RENEWAL OF WAIVERS.**—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.

**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;

(2) Turkish forces not involved in coordinated operations with NATO allies or the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS have withdrawn from northern Syria; and

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

(b) **SECTION 6.**—The authority to impose financial sanctions under section 6 (and the sanctions imposed pursuant to such section) shall terminate if the President determines and submits to the appropriate congressional committees the finding described in subsection (a)(1).

**SEC. 8. IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS UNDER COUNTERING AMERICA'S ADVERSARIES THROUGH SANCTIONS ACT AGAINST TURKEY.**

(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 five or more of the sanctions described in section 235 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9529) with respect to the Government of Turkey.

**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) a plan to ensure that ISIS detainees and families held in Syria remain under proper custody, in accordance with internationally recognized human rights requirements, and in a manner that does not threaten United States security interests; and

(B) a report on the impact that Turkey's military invasion of northern Syria is having on counterterrorism operations in Syria; and

(2) the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for how the United States will assist the Syrian Democratic Forces, Kurdish and Arab civilians, and other religious and ethnic minority communities affected by Turkey's military invasion of northern Syria on October 9, 2019.

**SEC. 10. 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 estimated net worth and known sources of income of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his family members (including spouse, children, parents, and siblings), including assets, investments, other business interests, and relevant beneficial ownership information.

**SEC. 11. REPORT ON TURKEY'S MILITARY INVASION OF NORTHERN SYRIA.**

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

(1) the Russian Federation and Iran continue to—

(A) exploit a security vacuum in Syria; and

(B) pose a threat to vital United States national security interests; and

(2) continued Turkish military activity inside Syria will negatively impact the national security interest and regional stability of the United States.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(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, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall 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 troops from northern Syria. The Secretary of State shall provide an updated report or briefing to the appropriate

congressional committees as circumstances warrant.

(2) **ELEMENTS OF THE REPORT.**—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.

(D) A comprehensive assessment of the United States Government's activities to counter Iranian and Russian Federation 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 without limited United States troop presence in northern Syria.

(F) The creation and use by the Government of Turkey of "safe zones" to justify the involuntary or uninformed return of Syrian refugees from Turkey to Syrian territory, to justify the forced displacement of Syrians inside Syria, or to prevent Syrians from seeking international protections.

(G) The role of the Government of Turkey and Turkish-backed forces in facilitating humanitarian actors, including international nongovernmental 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.

(H) The actions of the Government of Turkey and Turkish-backed forces in the operation of all camps for families displaced by conflict as civilian facilities, and ensuring that camp residents, in particular women and children, are treated as civilian victims of conflict in accordance with international law and standards.

(I) 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 use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

**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 Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria.

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

(1) A summary of the United States national security interests in Iraq and Syria and the impact a resurgence of ISIS would have on such interests.

(2) A assessment of current training and support programs by Federal agency or department, specifically focused on countering

ISIS and other terrorist organizations, including non-lethal assistance, training, and organizational capacity for the Syrian Democratic Forces, the Iraqi Security Forces, the Kurdish Peshmerga, 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 structures in areas in Syria previously liberated from ISIS control.

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

(5) A comprehensive plan to address ISIS detainees currently 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 fighter 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 ensure secure chains of custody and locations of ISIS foreign terrorist fighter detainees;

(iii) coordinating technical and evidentiary assistance to foreign 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, to deny financial resources, 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 description of United States Government efforts to support credible war crimes prosecutions against ISIS fighters.

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

**SEC. 13. REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, INCLUDING THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT, AND OTHER HARM TO CIVILIANS 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 civilian harm occurring during Turkey's military invasion of northern Syria, including violations of the law of armed conflict and gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, 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 violations 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 FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

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

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

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—The 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 under this paragraph shall not apply to an 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 other applicable international obligations of the United States.

**SEC. 15. IMPLEMENTATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President—

(1) may exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this Act; and

(2) shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this Act.

(b) 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 prescribed 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 or any amendments made by this Act 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 congressional committees that such a waiver is important 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, by—

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

(B) an organization or entity that has received a grant from, or entered into a cooperative agreement or contract with, the United States Government; or

(C) an organization that—

(i) was continuously physically present in Northeast Syria between 2011 and the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(ii) has partnered with an organization described in subparagraph (A) or (B);

(3) the spouses, children, sons, daughters, siblings, and parents of aliens described in paragraph (1); or

(4) Syrian Kurds, stateless persons who habitually resided in Syria, and other Syrians, who have an immediate relative (as defined in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i)) or a family member described in section 203(a) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 203(a)) who is physically present in the United States.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION AS A REFUGEE.**—An alien may not be denied the opportunity to apply for admission as a refugee under this section solely because such alien qualifies as an immediate relative of a national of the United States or is eligible for admission to the United States under any other immigrant classification.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP IN CERTAIN SYRIAN ORGANIZATIONS.**—An applicant for admission to the United States under this section may not be deemed inadmissible solely because the applicant was a member of, or provided support to, the Syrian Democratic Forces.

(d) **EXCLUSION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.**—Aliens provided refugee status under this section shall not be counted against any numerical limitation under section 201, 202, 203, or 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, 1153, and 1157).

(e) **IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER PERSECUTED GROUPS.**—The Secretary of State, or the designee of the Secretary, is authorized to classify other groups of Syrians, including vulnerable populations, as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern.

(f) **SATISFACTION OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—Aliens designated as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern under this section shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) for admission to the United States.

#### SEC. 19. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.**—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, and “alien” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

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

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

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

(3) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person” means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(4) **GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS.**—The term “gross violations of internationally recognized human rights” has the meaning given such term in section 502B(d)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(1)).

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

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

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an 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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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 bullets for us. These people were our 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 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 employs 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 bloodshed in Syria without senselessly 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.

This 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

hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting it.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, October 28, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,  
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 Ways and Means 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 will also support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, October 29, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 4695, the Protect Against Conflict by Turkey (PACT) Act, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4695.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, October 28, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,  
Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS: 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 your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on Financial Services conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, October 29, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 4695, the "Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act" or the "PACT Act". In order to permit the H.R. 4695 to proceed expeditiously to the House Floor, I agree to forgo formal consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action to forego formal consideration of H.R. 4695 with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing formal consideration of H.R. 4695 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward with regard to any matters in the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation that involves the Committee's jurisdiction and request your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 4695.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,  
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
Washington, DC, October 28, 2019.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,  
Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: 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 the Judiciary 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 will also support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, October 28, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 4695, the "Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act" that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 4695, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

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

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

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, October 28, 2019.

Hon. CAROLYN B. MALONEY,  
Acting Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MALONEY: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4695, the PACT 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 Oversight and Reform 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 will also support the appointment of Committee on Oversight and Reform conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM,  
Washington, DC, October 28, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,

*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4605, the Protect Against Conflict by Turkey (PACT) Act. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

In the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously on this bill, I am willing to waive this Committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Oversight and Reform does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name Members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

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

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY,  
*Acting Chairwoman.*

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4695, the Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act.

The death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi this past weekend is a major win in our counter-ISIS campaign, and I congratulate our brave special operators for a job well done, the men and women of our intelligence community, and our President for a bold decision.

The world is better off without this sick and deranged leader of the so-called caliphate. Baghdadi still has thousands of followers committed to terrorism. While their leader's death is a huge blow, we must stay vigilant to keep them from reconstituting or carrying out attacks in the West and to our homeland.

With that, we cannot allow Turkey's invasion to hinder, in any way, our counter-ISIS campaign.

My friend, Chairman ELIOT ENGEL, and I coauthored this legislation to give the White House additional congressional support to sanction Turkey for its recent actions and the leverage to ensure Turkey upholds the vital cease-fire negotiated by Vice President PENCE.

In the President's own words: "Should Turkey fail to honor its obligations, including the protection of religious and ethnic minorities . . . we reserve the right to reimpose crippling sanctions."

In addition, our bill ensures there are Presidential waivers to provide flexibility for the administration on how almost all the sanctions are administered.

This bill incentivizes Turkey to comply with the cease-fire. If they do not, there will be consequences in the form of crippling sanctions.

Turkey is also a vital NATO partner, and I am hopeful they will cease their

destabilizing actions and act as a responsible partner.

With that in mind, let's recap how we got here today.

On October 9, Erdogan's forces charged across the border, unleashing a potential humanitarian crisis for the people in northern Syria. The assault has expanded Assad and Putin's grip on Syrian territory.

As I said 2 weeks ago, I am concerned this incursion will damage U.S. interests in the Middle East and the Syrian people, including the Kurds, our ally. The only beneficiaries of more violence and more chaos in Syria are America's adversaries, and that is Vladimir Putin, Bashar al-Assad, Iran, and terror groups like ISIS.

On October 17, the administration brokered a cease-fire with Turkey, which has held to date. This has helped to stabilize the situation and prevent a worst-case scenario from taking place. I applaud the Vice President and Secretary Pompeo for that delicate negotiation with President Erdogan, and I believe that our bipartisan resolution, which disapproved of the Turkish incursion last week, I believe, helped in these negotiations.

Our bill today—my bill with Mr. ENGEL—codifies the administration's agreement in Ankara and will help to strengthen the President's hand in ensuring that Turkey upholds its commitments.

Our bill imposes penalties on Turkey if it continues its offensive in northern Syria. Specifically, it sanctions Turkish officials involved in the military operation in Syria. It blocks U.S. weapons sales to Turkey that could be used in Syria and sanctions foreign entities selling such weapons to Turkey. It sanctions banks supporting Turkey's defense sector in the Syria campaign.

Our bill also requires the administration to develop plans to adjust our counterterrorism strategy to respond to the changing situation on the ground.

I am pleased that the administration heard our call for a residual force in Syria. I can think of nothing more dangerous than withdrawing all of our troops in Syria, as we saw when we withdrew, under the previous administration, from Iraq to 10,000 forces. That is when we saw the rise of ISIS and the so-called caliphate.

We will have a residual force in Syria working with the SDF and the Kurds to help defeat and make sure ISIS is never again a threat to the homeland.

Finally, it identifies Turkey's purchase of the Russian S-400 system as a transaction subject to sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA. That is very important. How can you be a NATO ally and purchase Russian military equipment?

We let Turkey into NATO to protect them from the Soviet Union, and now our NATO ally is buying Russian military equipment and, through its invasion into Syria, threatening our allies.

For these reasons, I urge support of this bill and thank Chairman ENGEL for, once again, coming to a bipartisan resolution. When, once again, they said it couldn't be done, we got it done, and I thank him for that.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his kind words.

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 democracy, 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 late-night 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.

□ 1545

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 Syria.

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 and 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 inva-

sion 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 be lifted 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 provision of 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 transactions for 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 withdraw American troops from 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 because 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 reinstate 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 the indispensable nation in the world and because of the leadership asserted by the United States, international peace has been preserved and global conflagration avoided.

This task has never been easy or inexpensive, except when compared to the alternative of violence, bloodshed, and chaos.

President Kennedy recognized this and observed in his 1961 Inaugural Address that "In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it."

I urge all Members to join me in voting for this critically important bipartisan legislation, 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 systematically 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 provoking hostilities 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 Kurdistan 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 re-emerge 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 enemies fear us and our allies trust us.

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 Against Conflict by Turkey 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 will be joining 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 come 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, including H.J. Res. 77, a bipartisan, bicameral 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 our Kurdish partners.

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 acts with restraint, and we require 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 Americans' values, which are part of our strength; and, again, to fight terrorism wherever it exists so that it does not reach our shores.

□ 1600

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 positive 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, strongest 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 ongoing dedication to countering 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 are 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, bipartisan, commonsense 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 an authorized campaign expenditure, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1623

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Help America Run Act".

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Everyday 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 everyday 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 privilege the independently wealthy 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, but most importantly, when lawmakers do not share the concerns of everyday Americans, their policies reflect that.

(4) These circumstances have contributed to a Congress that does not always 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 biographies. 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 notes 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 surveyed had been 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 only 10 women in history have given birth while serving in Congress, in spite of the prevalence of working parents in other professions. Yet working mothers and fathers 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 net worth are simply not the best indicators of their strength as prospective public servants. In fact, helping ordinary Americans to run may create better policy for all Americans.

(c) 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 permissible uses of campaign funds and providing modest assurance that testing a run for office will not

cost one's livelihood, the Help America Run Act will facilitate the candidacy of representatives who more accurately reflect the experiences, challenges, and ideals of everyday Americans.

**SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE AND OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.**

(a) **PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.**—Section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE AND OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.**—

“(1) **AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.**—For purposes of subsection (a), the payment by an authorized committee of a candidate for any of the personal use services described in paragraph (3) shall be treated as an authorized expenditure if the services are necessary to enable the participation of the candidate in campaign-connected activities.

“(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—

“(A) **LIMIT ON TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.**—The total amount of payments made by an authorized committee of a candidate for personal use services described in paragraph (3) may not exceed the limit which is applicable under any law, rule, or regulation on the amount of payments which may be made by the committee for the salary of the candidate (without regard to whether or not the committee makes payments to the candidate for that purpose).

“(B) **CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF SALARY PAID TO CANDIDATE.**—To the extent that an authorized committee of a candidate makes payments for the salary of the candidate, any limit on the amount of such payments which is applicable under any law, rule, or regulation shall be reduced by the amount of any payments made to or on behalf of the candidate for personal use services described in paragraph (3), other than personal use services described in subparagraph (D) of such paragraph.

“(C) **EXCLUSION OF CANDIDATES WHO ARE OFFICEHOLDERS.**—Paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to an authorized committee of a candidate who is a holder of Federal office.

“(3) **PERSONAL USE SERVICES DESCRIBED.**—The personal use services described in this paragraph are as follows:

“(A) Child care services.

“(B) Elder care services.

“(C) Services similar to the services described in subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B) which are provided on behalf of any dependent who is a qualifying relative under section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(D) Health insurance premiums.”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. **LOFGREN**) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. **RODNEY DAVIS**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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 measure under consideration.

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

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 sitters 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 join us at the decisionmaking table. Those who have firsthand knowledge of what it means to have stable childcare, good schools, and secure healthcare are exactly 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 and Member 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 2015 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-

hold. One could see how Americans feel Congress might be out of touch.

This bill is a step to building trust in Congress as by and for the people. The bill would help advance economic diversity and other types of diversity, too.

Even with the record number of women serving in the 116th Congress, only 1 in 4 Congresspeople are women. This isn't because women don't want to run.

The Center for American Women and Politics found that one-third of women legislators surveyed had been actively discouraged from running for office, often by political professionals. This type of discouragement, combined with the existing prohibitions on using campaign funds for domestic needs like childcare, burdens that still fall disproportionately on American women, particularly disadvantages working parents.

Running for office should not be limited to the wealthy or those who have no familial responsibilities. That is anathema to the democratic experiment, and it makes for bad policy.

This bill is a simple, cost-free, commonsense measure to make America's representatives look more like the everyday Americans we are here to represent. For that reason, I am proud to support it.

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.

I, too, rise in support of H.R. 1623, the Help America Run Act, a bill drafted by my colleague across the aisle, newly-elected Congresswoman from the great State of California, Ms. **KATIE PORTER**.

I want to commend Ms. **PORTER** for this important legislation that I believe will allow, as Chairperson **LOFGREN** said, more people of all socioeconomic strata, to be able to run for office.

Strong candidates should not be limited by their circumstances to the point that it prevents them from representing their communities in Congress. Representatives of this body should and do come from all backgrounds to allow for equal representation of all who make up this institution and this great Nation.

I believe this bill will make that happen by allowing the candidate who is not currently a Member of Congress to pay for specific necessary services like childcare and dependent care, that will enable a congressional candidate to participate in all campaign-connected activities.

This is a decision between the candidates and the donors that give to their campaign. All we are asking to do with this piece of legislation is to allow candidates to publicly disclose childcare expenses on their FEC reports. Everyone is going to know what they paid. Everyone is going to know what it went for, and that is an issue

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 for new representation, providing more Americans who aspire to represent their communities in Congress the chance to do just that.

This is not a radical idea. We should absolutely want to give everyone 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.

□ 1615

There are even fewer moms in Congress and even fewer moms of young kids and even fewer single moms of young kids, as in just me.

A major barrier to women running for elected office is their inability to afford the amount or 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 of that, moms 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 perspectives 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 6½ 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 same time. It is, what do 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 path is in life, 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—I can tell you how much mine cost. It cost 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 and work with 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 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 in downtown 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 sitting in that gallery, 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 bipartisanship 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 between being a parent and 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. Mr. Speaker, the legislation provides an opportunity and a choice for each candidate to decide, in their own campaign and from their own donors, whether or not they want to use these funds for childcare.

Many people will choose not to, just like many of us choose as candidates not to seek reimbursement for pizza or not to seek reimbursement for any number of allowable FEC expenses. But this bill is also going to stop the FEC from having to again and again and again—every time a parent of young children wants to run, from having to make that expensive and time-consuming appeal to the FEC and waste

its resources when this simply should be a clear, straightforward policy.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think the gentlewoman has made a very good point that this is discretionary on the part of the candidate, but it is a point that we also need to make: This has nothing to do with taxpayers funds. This is no money from the government, no money from the taxpayers. This is a candidate, where a candidate has raised funds and how they spend their campaign funds.

I know that there had been some confusion among some earlier in the day that was unfortunate and has now been corrected. This is only a matter of a campaign expenditure. Really, childcare has to be as important as pizza, to me, at least more important, but that is up for a candidate to decide.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire how much time we have remaining on debate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 14 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I love debate like this. It is an opportunity for us, again, to show how we can work together, both sides of the aisle, and put good policies forward that are going to affect the ability for people to serve in this institution.

Hearing the talk about kids when running for Congress, it actually takes me back. Many folks may see me walking around the Capitol tunnels with earbuds in, in the early mornings about 5:30 our time, 4:30 back home, because my wife is a nurse. They work on a different schedule. That is my time that I get to talk to her. She was a nurse and left for work very early in the morning when our kids were growing up. And my job as a congressional staffer, I had a great boss who made sure that he told me every day to put my kids first.

I cannot thank our colleague JOHN SHIMKUS, who I worked for, for 16 years, enough for telling me to put my family first. It is a guy like that who not only makes me a better Member of Congress being around him, but he helped me learn how to be a better dad.

Until I got elected, my job each day was to get my kids ready, sometimes a little more labor intensive when they were a little bit younger than they were when they were older. Although it was kind of easier when I was holding twin boys in seats rather than chasing them, but dropping them off at childcare, before we dropped them off at school. During the summer, if we didn't have childcare opportunities, if I didn't have the opportunity to take them and drop them off, neither my wife nor I could have gotten to the jobs that we enjoyed pursuing so much.

In today's day and age, with so many two-parent working families, this is

only a commonsense provision that is going to be a choice, a choice for candidates to use if they choose. That is something that we ought to all come together and make happen.

Look, there are great people on both sides of the aisle in this institution. I want more of them. I want more people who want to be able to do what we do. This is going to be an opportunity to show them, too, that this institution isn't nearly as dysfunctional as the news media says it is. Most of what we do here is actually done on a pretty bipartisan basis, but it doesn't make the news.

Hopefully, today, maybe one of the folks covering us is going to talk about what we did together, maybe. I am going to cross my fingers. Maybe they will understand that this is what we need to highlight instead of the nonsense that happens when the two parties and the extremes scream at each other.

A good bill, again, from Congresswoman PORTER, and it is great to work with her, and a great bill from Chairperson LOFGREN. I appreciate the opportunity to serve with each and every one of my colleagues.

I will ask, again, for every Member to support this today loudly on the floor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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, 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, but, 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.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1623, 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.

SFC SEAN COOLEY AND SPC CHRISTOPHER HORTON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD STAR FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ACT

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 107) 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, 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 (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the “Program”) under which, under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, 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) **EXCLUSION OF APPOINTEES 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. 5321(a)).

(c) **PLACEMENT IN MEMBER OFFICES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MEMBER.**—An individual may serve 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.

(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 dies from 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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 measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman 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 others who often go months or longer without seeing their loved one while that loved one is deployed.

It is incumbent on all Americans, but particularly those of us who have the privilege of serving in Congress, to support military families, and none more so than our Gold Star families.

Gold Star families have experienced the worst type of heartbreak, sacrifice, and loss, and they deserve our unwavering recognition, compassion, and support. The Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program is one small way for us in Congress to provide that support.

This program will offer an opportunity for members of Gold Star families to gain firsthand experience in Congress through a yearlong fellowship in a congressional office. These fellowships can take place either here in Washington or back home in a district office and will allow Gold Star families to both participate in and learn about the democracy their loved one gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect.

Nothing can ever fill the void left by the loss of a loved one who was killed serving the Nation, but we in Congress should be doing everything we can to help lift up those who have suffered this unfathomable loss.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the establishment of this program. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and 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, I want to thank Chairperson LOFGREN for, again, working with me on this issue—it is such a very important piece of legislation—because I am proud to rise with her today in support of H. Res. 107, the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act.

Since being elected to Congress in 2013, my team has worked over 1,000 cases on behalf of veteran constituents in central-southwestern Illinois, including when the USS John McCain

collided with a merchant ship off the coast of Singapore in 2017, killing 10 sailors, including Petty Officer Logan Palmer from my district. My office was able to help this Gold Star family navigate the confusing Department of Defense policies relating to next-of-kin travel for noncombat-related deaths and other important procedures that follow a tragedy like this.

Over the years since that tragedy, I have become friends with Petty Officer Palmer’s parents, Theresa and Sid, and deeply value our friendship, which is one of the reasons why I am so honored to be on the floor advocating for the passage of this bill.

I have also worked to change the next-of-kin family travel policies at the DOD and am currently working in a bipartisan way with Members across the aisle to codify those changes that are already in existence. Let’s codify them into law so they don’t change again when administrations change.

I will continue to use my office to assist those who have given so much. That is why I believe in this program that will allow Gold Star spouses, children, and siblings the opportunity to work for a congressional office in D.C. or a district office.

We already have a model for success in Congress to shape this program after. It is the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program that lies within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer and has provided many opportunities over the years for veterans to serve in the House of Representatives.

Currently, there is a Wounded Warrior fellow who works in my Maryville, Illinois, office, Peter Arsenault. He is doing a great job. Peter helps veterans in my district every day and understands the assistance and the help that they need to navigate the bureaucracy within the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to give a special thank-you and a shout-out to our colleague and my very good close friend, TRENT KELLY, the gentleman from Mississippi, for his work on taking this fellowship program from an idea into a reality. TRENT did everything to make sure that this became law, that this bill passed the House and made it on its way to become law.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Gold Star families for their participation in making this process a reality, too, and for those family members who could be here in the gallery to see this important program come to fruition.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the ranking member has mentioned the Wounded Warrior Program that, I believe, has been enormously successful.

Practically every week, I am signing little termination letters. And why? Because these wounded warriors have gotten jobs, promotions, permanent positions, exactly what we wanted.

So not only will this help the families, Gold Star families, gain insight

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 moving this forward. 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. 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 and to give hope to others fighting for a better future in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We could never repay the debt we owe, but we can honor them by caring for their families. This is why this resolution to establish the Gold Star Family Fellowship Program in the House is so important and has my full support.

Since becoming a Member of the House, I have made it my mission to work across the aisle to ensure Congress does its part to honor our heroes and care for the families who bear the daily burden of their loss.

To our Gold Star and surviving families, I recall President Lincoln's words to a grieving mother who lost five sons in the Civil War: "I pray that the Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

As we approach Veterans Day, this action is timely and sends an important message of support to our military families and to the American people.

The daring raid this weekend which ended the life of the world's most wanted terrorist is a reminder of how much we—indeed, the entire free world—owe to our military, our military service-members and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to personally thank my good friend and wingman on the Armed Services Committee, Mr. KELLY, for introducing this measure.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. 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. I am sure I talked longer than I thought.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 14½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK), my good friend, another veteran who serves in this great institution with us. I am honored to be able to serve with him on the House Administration Committee.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend and colleague, the ranking member, for yielding this time.

This is one of those pieces of legislation that really touches your heart.

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 even when I was a 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 serving 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 now 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.

□ 1645

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 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 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. 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. I have never had the chance to take that 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 is going to live 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—that 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 noncombat-related deaths, like Petty Officer Logan Palmer 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 staffers. 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 done and making adjustments as 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 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK), my good friend.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for bringing this measure forward and giving us an opportunity to do something so important for these families.

I am sure many of you, as you watch the television, see the different organizations that have evolved over the past several years to provide assistance to those families. One particular organization provides assistance in paying off the mortgages for these families.

I bring that up just as an illustration to the aspects of what these Gold Star families go through at the loss of their

loved one. Sometimes it is the primary income earner from the family because, quite often, the spouse is at home taking care of the children and, all of a sudden, they are the primary breadwinner, their loved one is gone. They are left with these bills. They are left with, a lot of times, situations beyond just the grief of what they are feeling at the loss of their family member, they have to deal with these unbearable situations.

Providing them with an opportunity for the 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 our own lives, if necessary. 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 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.

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 blood 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.

We have many Gold Star families here today. My friend Jane Horton came up with the idea for this bill. This is her husband who is pictured in this bill. Thank God that we have men

and women who not only serve this Nation, but families who serve this Nation by allowing their family member to serve. Such bravery and such patriots. As long as we have them, this Nation will always sustain.

When we lose these types of patriots who are willing to give everything to this beautiful, wonderful Nation, then we no longer will have a Nation. Freedom is not free. But the least we can do is allow their family members to learn how to get engaged in the congressional process on a national and strategic level and to influence our decision so that we take care of those great patriots who left this country behind.

We will never forget, and we will never leave behind a fallen comrade or their survivor. So for our Gold Star families, thank you and God bless you. Their sacrifice was not in vain.

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

□ 1700

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I think this has been an excellent debate highlighting the bipartisan support for this fellowship, a 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 possibly give to them, but this fellowship is a token. It is a token that is important, and it is something that we have done in a bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that every Member 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 Congressional 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 community has many of these families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty while serving 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 congressional fellowship in a Congressional office. This fellowship would be modeled after other successful programs to include the wounded warrior fellowship that already exists.

Many of our offices have benefited by adding various types of fellows to our staff and I’m sure we would all stand 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 provide an opportunity to those who have already sacrificed so much. I would ask all of my colleagues to support this resolution and look forward 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 Jefferson 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 Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program 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 provides the spouses, the children, and the siblings of those who gave their lives in service to our great nation in armed conflict or combat-related training, a paid fellowship with the Congressperson of their choice, here in Washington, or in their home district.

When our servicemembers make the ultimate sacrifice, there is no award, no amount of money or no program that can ever make their families whole again. But what this program does do, is it gives the families left behind a chance to participate in our great democratic process at the national level.

Their experiences, their trials, and their tribulations will now have a voice in these hallowed halls. A voice that will serve as a constant reminder that it is the military family that is the backbone of this great Republic and when we make the decision to send our nation’s best to war, we must always be prepared to take care of those left behind.

General George Patton once said that “it is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.”

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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 107, 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. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

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 conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES RECORD ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 296) affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 11, answered “present” 3, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 591]  
YEAS—405

Abraham	Castor (FL)	Doyle, Michael
Adams	Castro (TX)	F.
Aderholt	Chabot	Duncan
Aguilar	Cheney	Dunn
Allen	Chu, Judy	Emmer
Allred	Cicilline	Engel
Amash	Cisneros	Escobar
Amodei	Clark (MA)	Eshoo
Armstrong	Clarke (NY)	Espaillet
Arrington	Clay	Estes
Axne	Cleaver	Evans
Babin	Cline	Ferguson
Bacon	Cloud	Finkenauer
Balderson	Clyburn	Fitzpatrick
Banks	Cohen	Fleischmann
Barr	Collins (GA)	Fletcher
Barragan	Comer	Flores
Bass	Conaway	Fortenberry
Bera	Connolly	Foster
Bergman	Cook	Frankel
Beyer	Cooper	Fudge
Biggs	Correa	Fulcher
Billirakis	Costa	Gaetz
Bishop (GA)	Courtney	Gallagher
Bishop (NC)	Cox (CA)	Gallego
Bishop (UT)	Craig	Garamendi
Blumenauer	Crawford	Garcia (IL)
Blunt Rochester	Crenshaw	Garcia (TX)
Bonamici	Crist	Gianforte
Bost	Crow	Gibbs
Boyle, Brendan	Cuellar	Gohmert
F.	Cunningham	Golden
Brindisi	Curtis	Gomez
Brooks (AL)	Davidson (KS)	Gonzalez (OH)
Brown (MD)	Davidson (OH)	Gonzalez (TX)
Brownley (CA)	Davis (CA)	Gooden
Buchanan	Davis, Danny K.	Gottheimer
Buck	Davis, Rodney	Granger
Budd	DeFazio	Graves (GA)
Burchett	DeGette	Graves (LA)
Burgess	DeLauro	Graves (MO)
Bustos	DelBene	Green (TN)
Butterfield	Delgado	Green, Al (TX)
Byrne	Demings	Griffith
Calvert	DeSaulnier	Grijalva
Carbajal	DesJarlais	Grothman
Cárdenas	Deutch	Guest
Carson (IN)	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie
Carter (GA)	Dingell	Haaland
Cartwright	Doggett	Hagedorn
Case		Harder (CA)
Casten (IL)		Hartzler

Hastings Mast  
 Hayes Matsui  
 Heck McAdams  
 Hern, Kevin McBath  
 Herrera Beutler McCarthy  
 Higgins (LA) McCaul  
 Higgins (NY) McClintock  
 Hill (AR) McCollum  
 Himes McGovern  
 Holding McHenry  
 Hollingsworth McKinley  
 Horn, Kendra S. McNeerney  
 Horsford Meeks  
 Houlihan Meng  
 Hoyer Meuser  
 Hudson Miller  
 Huizenga Mitchell  
 Hunter Moolenaar  
 Hurd (TX) Mooney (WV)  
 Jackson Lee Moore  
 Jayapal Morelle  
 Jeffries Moulton  
 Johnson (GA) Mucarsel-Powell  
 Johnson (LA) Mullin  
 Johnson (OH) Murphy (FL)  
 Johnson (SD) Murphy (NC)  
 Jordan Nadler  
 Joyce (OH) Napolitano  
 Joyce (PA) Neal  
 Kaptur Neguse  
 Katko Newhouse  
 Keating Norcross  
 Keller Norman  
 Kelly (IL) Nunes  
 Kelly (MS) O'Halleran  
 Kelly (PA) Ocasio-Cortez  
 Kennedy Olson  
 Khanna Palazzo  
 Kildee Pallone  
 Kilmer Palmer  
 Kim Panetta  
 Kind Pappas  
 King (IA) Pascrell  
 King (NY) Payne  
 Kinzinger Pelosi  
 Kirkpatrick Perlmutter  
 Krishnamoorthi Perry  
 Kuster (NH) Peters  
 Kustoff (TN) Peterson  
 LaHood Phillips  
 LaMalfa Pingree  
 Lamb Pocan  
 Lamborn Porter  
 Langevin Posey  
 Larsen (WA) Pressley  
 Larson (CT) Price (NC)  
 Latta Quigley  
 Lawrence Raskin  
 Lawson (FL) Reed  
 Lee (CA) Reschenthaler  
 Lee (NV) Rice (NY)  
 Lesko Rice (SC)  
 Levin (CA) Richmond  
 Levin (MI) Riggleman  
 Lewis Roby  
 Lieu, Ted Rodgers (WA)  
 Lipinski Roe, David P.  
 Loeb sack Rogers (KY)  
 Lofgren Rooney (FL)  
 Long Rose (NY)  
 Loudermilk Rose, John W.  
 Lowenthal Rouda  
 Lowey Rouzer  
 Lucas Roy  
 Luetkemeyer Roybal-Allard  
 Luján Ruiz  
 Luria Ruppertsberger  
 Lynch Rush  
 Malinowski Rutherford  
 Maloney, Ryan  
 Carolyn B. Sánchez  
 Maloney, Sean Sarbanes  
 Marchant Scalise  
 Marshall Scanlon  
 Massie Schakowsky

NAYS—11

Baird Cole  
 Brady Foxx (NC)  
 Brooks (IN) Harris  
 Bucshon Meadows

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—3

Gosar Johnson (TX) Omar

NOT VOTING—13

Beatty Hice (GA)  
 Carter (TX) Hill (CA)  
 Gabbard Huffman

Ratcliffe Timmons  
 Thompson (CA) Williams  
 Wright Zeldin

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.

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.

□ 1726

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."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PROTECT AGAINST CONFLICT BY TURKEY ACT

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. 4695) 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 question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) 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]  
 YEAS—403

Adams Barragán  
 Aderholt Bass  
 Agullar Bera  
 Allred Bergman  
 Amash Beyer  
 Amodei Bilirakis  
 Armstrong Bishop (GA)  
 Arrington Bishop (NC)  
 Axne Bishop (UT)  
 Babin Blumenauer  
 Bacon Blunt Rochester  
 Balderson Blumenthal  
 Banks Bonamici  
 Barr Bost

Bustos  
 Butterfield  
 Byrne  
 Calvert  
 Carbajal  
 Cárdenas  
 Carson (IN)  
 Carter (GA)  
 Cartwright  
 Case  
 Casten (IL)  
 Castor (FL)  
 Castro (TX)  
 Chabot  
 Cheney  
 Chu, Judy  
 Cicilline  
 Cisneros  
 Clark (MA)  
 Clarke (NY)  
 Clay  
 Cleaver  
 Cline  
 Cloud  
 Clyburn  
 Cohen  
 Collins (GA)  
 Comer  
 Conaway  
 Connolly  
 Cook  
 Cooper  
 Correa  
 Courtney  
 Cox (CA)  
 Craig  
 Crawford  
 Crenshaw  
 Crist  
 Crow  
 Cuellar  
 Cunningham  
 Curtis  
 Davids (KS)  
 Davidson (OH)  
 Davis (CA)  
 Davis, Danny K.  
 Davis, Rodney  
 Dean  
 DeFazio  
 DeGette  
 DeLauro  
 DelBene  
 Delgado  
 Demings  
 DeSaulnier  
 DesJarlais  
 Deutch  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Dingell  
 Doggett  
 Doyle, Michael F.  
 Dunn  
 Emmer  
 Engel  
 Escobar  
 Eshoo  
 Espallat  
 Estes  
 Evans  
 Finkenauer  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann  
 Fletcher  
 Flores  
 Fortenberry  
 Foster  
 Foxx (NC)  
 Frankel  
 Fudge  
 Fulcher  
 Gaetz  
 Gallagher  
 Gallego  
 Garamendi  
 Garcia (IL)  
 Garcia (TX)  
 Gianforte  
 Gibbs  
 Gohmert  
 Golden  
 Gomez  
 Gonzalez (OH)  
 Gonzalez (TX)  
 Gooden  
 Gottheimer  
 Granger

Graves (GA)  
 Graves (LA)  
 Graves (MO)  
 Green (TN)  
 Green, Al (TX)  
 Griffith  
 Grijalva  
 Grothman  
 Guthrie  
 Haaland  
 Hagedorn  
 Harder (CA)  
 Harris  
 Hartzler  
 Hastings  
 Hayes  
 Heck  
 Hern, Kevin  
 Herrera Beutler  
 Higgins (LA)  
 Higgins (NY)  
 Hill (AR)  
 Himes  
 Holding  
 Horn, Kendra S.  
 Horsford  
 Houlihan  
 Hoyer  
 Hudson  
 Huizenga  
 Hunter  
 Hurd (TX)  
 Jackson Lee  
 Jayapal  
 Jeffries  
 Johnson (GA)  
 Johnson (LA)  
 Johnson (OH)  
 Johnson (SD)  
 Jordan  
 Joyce (OH)  
 Joyce (PA)  
 Kaptur  
 Katko  
 Keating  
 Keller  
 Kelly (IL)  
 Kelly (MS)  
 Kelly (PA)  
 Kennedy  
 Khanna  
 Kildee  
 Kilmer  
 Kim  
 Kind  
 King (IA)  
 King (NY)  
 Kinzinger  
 Kirkpatrick  
 Krishnamoorthi  
 Kuster (NH)  
 Kustoff (TN)  
 LaHood  
 LaMalfa  
 Lamb  
 Lamborn  
 Langevin  
 Larsen (WA)  
 Larson (CT)  
 Latta  
 Lawrence  
 Raskin  
 Lawson (FL)  
 Lee (CA)  
 Lee (NV)  
 Lesko  
 Levin (CA)  
 Levin (MI)  
 Lewis  
 Lieu, Ted  
 Lipinski  
 Loeb sack  
 Lofgren  
 Long  
 Loudermilk  
 Lowenthal  
 Lowey  
 Lucas  
 Luetkemeyer  
 Luján  
 Luria  
 Lynch  
 Malinowski  
 Maloney,  
 Carolyn B.  
 Maloney, Sean  
 Marchant  
 Marshall  
 Massie

McBath  
 McCarthy  
 McCaul  
 McClintock  
 McCollum  
 McGovern  
 McHenry  
 McKinley  
 McNeerney  
 Meeks  
 Meng  
 Meuser  
 Miller  
 Mitchell  
 Moolenaar  
 Mooney (WV)  
 Moore  
 Morelle  
 Moulton  
 Mucarsel-Powell  
 Mullin  
 Murphy (FL)  
 Murphy (NC)  
 Nadler  
 Napolitano  
 Neal  
 Neguse  
 Newhouse  
 Norcross  
 Nunes  
 O'Halleran  
 Ocasio-Cortez  
 Olson  
 Palazzo  
 Pallone  
 Palmer  
 Panetta  
 Pappas  
 Pascrell  
 Payne  
 Perlmutter  
 Perry  
 Peters  
 Peterson  
 Phillips  
 Pingree  
 Pocan  
 Porter  
 Posey  
 Pressley  
 Price (NC)  
 Quigley  
 Raskin  
 Reed  
 Reschenthaler  
 Rice (NY)  
 Rice (SC)  
 Richmond  
 Riggleman  
 Roby  
 Rodgers (WA)  
 Roe, David P.  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rooney (FL)  
 Rose (NY)  
 Rose, John W.  
 Rouda  
 Rouzer  
 Roy  
 Roybal-Allard  
 Ruiz  
 Ruppertsberger  
 Rush  
 Rutherford  
 Ryan  
 Sánchez  
 Sarbanes  
 Scalise  
 Scanlon  
 Schakowsky  
 Schneider  
 Schrier  
 Schweikert  
 Scott (VA)  
 Scott, Austin  
 Scott, David  
 Sensenbrenner  
 Serrano  
 Sewell (AL)  
 Shalala  
 Sherman  
 Sherrill  
 Shimkus  
 Simpson

Sires	Thompson (PA)	Walorski
Slotkin	Thornberry	Waltz
Smith (MO)	Tipton	Wasserman
Smith (NE)	Titus	Schultz
Smith (NJ)	Tlaib	Waters
Smith (WA)	Tonko	Watkins
Smucker	Torres (CA)	Watson Coleman
Soto	Torres Small	Weber (TX)
Spanberger	(NM)	Webster (FL)
Spano	Trahan	Welch
Speier	Trone	Wenstrup
Stanton	Turner	Westerman
Stauber	Underwood	Wexton
Stefanik	Upton	Wild
Steil	Van Drew	Wilson (FL)
Steube	Vargas	Wilson (SC)
Stevens	Veasey	Wittman
Stewart	Vela	Womack
Stivers	Velázquez	Woodall
Suozzi	Visclosky	Yarmuth
Swalwell (CA)	Wagner	Yoho
Takano	Walberg	Young
Taylor	Walden	
Thompson (MS)	Walker	

NAYS—16

Abraham	Ferguson	Massie
Allen	Gosar	Norman
Baird	Guest	Omar
Biggs	Kelly (MS)	Pence
Cole	LaMalfa	
Duncan	Loudermilk	

NOT VOTING—12

Beatty	Hill (CA)	Timmons
Carter (TX)	Huffman	Williams
Gabbard	McEachin	Wright
Hice (GA)	Thompson (CA)	Zeldin

□ 1736

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.

SFC 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 (H. Res. 107) 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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) 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.

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, his fight against apartheid, his fight to ensure that we in this country never lost sight of our criminal justice that is not equal, and his fight for justice for all.

We often remember him walking around with his kind manner in this House, and I ask at this time if we could have a moment of silence.

Would everyone please stand.

□ 1745

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 Donovan 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 funds for a 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 (Ms. SCANLON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

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 unexpected, 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 current 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 FLETCHER, and my colleague, 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 seek out 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:

One, an estimate of the investment a pavilion could bring to the United States;

Two, a report on the human rights record of the United Arab Emirates; and

Three, 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 us get to the finish line.

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 Winstead 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 agency to craft 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. Without the United States' attendance 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 against our partners 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 Teddy Roosevelt's 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 American leadership cannot—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 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 is 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 this expo.

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 opportunities 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. YOHIO), 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 cooperate 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.

□ 1800

#### HONORING EDWARD POE BOSTIC

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

Mr. BURCHETT. 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 105; 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.

#### CELEBRATING KINDNESS MONTH

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, last week, we celebrated the life of service of our colleague Elijah Cummings. 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 Promise in an effort to reduce bullying and reduce school violence.

Since the beginning of October, Interboro students have been encour-

aged 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.

#### PRaising THE HONORABLE ELIJAH EUGENE CUMMINGS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Congressman Elijah Eugene Cummings after his sudden passing on October 17.

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

moment. 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 conversation with an American icon, civil rights legend, and my father on the floor of Congress. It is a moment I will treasure forever.

#### HONORING HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH

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

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 he is: a patriot.

I read his testimony. It was straightforward, detailed. It certainly was without exaggeration. You could clear-

ly 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 was wounded.

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.

#### 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 designee 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 related. 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-plus community. They are being discriminated against on their jobs. They are being discriminated against when they apply for jobs if it is known or suspected that they are members of the LGBTQ-plus community, discriminated against in being promoted, in pay raises.

The LGBTQ-plus community is being discriminated against, and 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 perfect 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 every religion if we want our religion to be protected.

This is the way life works, the mutuality. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly.

□ 1815

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, who are only asking for what the law provides in this country. And 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 have 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, the Honorable Elijah Cummings: 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.

They say: I am 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 this happen in the Latinx community, the Latino community, as well. People will advertise in one language, and when you come into the place of business, they will conduct business in another language.

So you are induced to come in and transact business, let's just use this as an example, in Spanish, induced to come in and transact business in Span-

ish, but once you arrive, the contract is in 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 get some 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 were working 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 profundity 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. And if 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 was of the opinion that they did not merit the same rights, and he fought 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.

He was a successor to 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 will share with you.

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 who was there with the title of Democrat behaved the way the current occupant behaves, that person would be impeached, and Republicans would lead the charge.

□ 1830

Life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny; what impacts one directly impacts all indirectly.

The inaction that we take today will produce an action in our future. Our failure to act today is going to say to the next occupant: You cannot conclude that this is the last person who will disregard all the protocols and rules. You cannot assume this. You can only assume that we have this one, and you can hope that there will not be another, but there can be.

If we show that there are no guardrails, if we demonstrate that we don't have the courage to do what Article II, Section 4, of the Constitution mandates, 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 your attention 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 who are not in this Chamber 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. I understand that, to a limited extent, I stand in the

way of getting 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 that 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 put party above country. I understand. I want to get back to bigotry as usual. I am sorry that I am one of the impediments. 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 to deal 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. I really am. 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 mutuality 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.

The reason we often start these presentations with this board up is if you look at our future, instead of the chaos that this place seems to be bathing in so far this year, and care about what is happening to the country, care about people like my little 4-year-old daughter, who turned 4 last week, best little girl ever—what is her future going to be like?

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 earned 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 to being honest about the demographics of the country on how fast we are getting older, the fact our birth-rates have, in many ways, collapsed.

Now you have incentives for family formation and population stability. It is complex. It seems to 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 do that gap year after year after year. 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 years.

Back to my first comments, it is happening. It is just demographics.

The other part was spending decisions here where one side wanted to 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.

□ 1845

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 we ever get an apology?

Or is it just another occasion where the lunacy is allowed to engage in the rage machine and yet when we actually see the math, feelings are more valuable than the truth?

It breaks my heart, because how 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 realize that mandatory spending, the 15 percent of the budget is Defense, there is only another 15 percent that is all the rest of 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 how do you deal with the 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 the best slide I have on this subject area. It is a little noisy, but a Democrat Member and I have been working on this, trying to actually promote continued investment in things like diabetes. It turns out that if you can follow this noisy chart, we are modeling that the projected costs 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 being able to grow pancreatic cells and reactivate 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 moral, 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 systems. 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 trillions of 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 let's actually talk about a little bit of creativity. Last week we had something called H.R. 3 in the Ways and Means Committee. It is referred to by some people in the vernacular as reference pricing. Take a handful of European countries, find their statistical mean, give it a variance of from 100 to 130, and you have to price within there. If you price outside that range, then you get a 95 percent tax, if you are the pharmaceutical manufacturer or seller.

Okay, Madam Speaker, except within just a couple moments, a number of smart people in the room were laying out saying, okay, you could scam it this way, you could actually do a rebate over here, you could actually backdoor—so raise the price on these pharmaceuticals, lower the price on these, so the country of France, when they are buying, their mean cost is the same. And there was no willingness in the room by the majority Democrats to have a conversation of, this doesn't actually accomplish what you want, and CBO has already come and modeled to us that there will be a substantial fall-off in new drugs that are the disruption that we are trying to get.

Madam Speaker, do you remember how in the previous slide we were just talking about the miracle, if you had a cure for diabetes? What would happen if you had Alzheimer's?

What about some of the ones we know are here already? There is the single-shot cure that cures hemophilia, one of the most expensive for an individual medical condition in our society. It can be up to around \$600,000 a year, a single-shot cure is here.

We should actually have been having a discussion of how you finance it, so every one of the 8,600—that is the best number I have right now—of our brothers and sisters who have hemophilia A, we can cure them, not over years, but over months.

It turns out for our brothers and sisters who are in the chronic population—5 percent of the population is the majority of our healthcare spending.

So what about the concept of a disruption like we were talking, a healthcare disruption, where you start curing individuals who have these chronic conditions and they are no longer part of the chronic population that is the majority of our healthcare spending?

Instead of having the absurd debate we have had in this body for 10 years,

the Democrats' version, the ACA, on who should get subsidized and who should have to pay. And then, of course, the Republican alternative, which was not on who gets subsidized and who should have to pay, but who should pay and who should get subsidized.

We have been debating the financing of healthcare, not the disruption of things we can do technology-wise and incentive-wise to crash the price. You have already seen the charts. Medicare is three-quarters of the unfunded liabilities. I just showed you that almost 30 percent of it is just diabetes coverage.

How do you get this body to focus on the reality of the math and move toward solutions that actually solve these problems?

So if you are going to try to be creative around here, what you find out is by the time you make your first sentence of: Here is an idea, you already have folks on the other side shutting it down saying: I am not comfortable with that.

So I am just going to put up another board, just as a simple thought experiment. So work with me here.

Fifty percent of the pharmaceuticals that will be picked up at pharmacies today, the experts tell us, will not be used or will not be used properly.

One more time. Half the pharmaceuticals that will be picked up today will not be used or will not be used properly. Think of that. If we could actually have some impact on that, if you want to do something on drug prices, Madam Speaker, that is one.

Do we argue about that?

We don't argue on that fact. It just doesn't fit into the narrative. So we have the technology today where we know when the pill bottle is opened. We actually have the machines that if your mom or your grandmom needs this pill at 8 a.m. and this pill at 12 noon, there is a little machine that does, not only dispense it, but will talk to her and actually also do a cellphone notification, and if the little cup holding the pill isn't moved, it will actually even send you a text message as a family member.

Think about that. That is a technology over here that has almost nothing to do with actually being part of pharma, but actually would help us on that portion of that 50 percent that is not being used properly.

How about the other portion of that 50 percent that just isn't used at all?

We have actually been trying to do the math, saying: How about for high-value pharmaceuticals, put them in sterile packaging. Put them in single-use packaging and let them be returnable for the high-value ones. Because on one hand, we will get testimony of folks who are outraged that these small molecule pharmaceuticals are ending up in the water supply and in other places being flushed down the toilets. Just this weekend we had prescription drug take-back day in so many of our communities.

But the fact of the matter is, how many pharmaceuticals that are perfectly good, that if they had been packaged properly, could have been returned?

So as a body we support recycling for everything else, but I had a Democrat Member come up to me and say: Oh, I am just not comfortable with that.

How about if it had a genuine, substantial price index?

How about if it became a way to help our brothers and sisters who don't have access to some of these pharmaceuticals, a price-efficient way to get them?

How about if it was just good for the environment?

It turns out the technology exists. There are a number of organizations out there that are already experimenting with cartridges that stay absolutely sterile, so that those that are unused are returnable. It is a type of multilayer blister pack that stays absolutely sterile that makes them returnable; liquid type of pharmaceuticals that are in single-shot doses, meaning, the other ones are returnable. It is a thought experiment.

But because it didn't fit the narrative of let's beat the crap out of the pharmaceutical companies—and, look, I am not saying they are saints—but it didn't fit the narrative to have something that was creative. It was like talking to a blank wall. That is a problem around here. I am willing to listen.

□ 1900

Can I get my brothers and sisters who claim we want to do good things for society? "We want to lower pharmaceutical prices. We are going to put every creative idea on the table, except for the ones that aren't theirs." It doesn't work that way.

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 what is 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 when 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 some of 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. Something is working out there.

Why isn't this body fixated on figuring out what is working and doing more of it? Instead, Congress has now become a place where we do public policy by feelings instead of a calculator.

As my father used to say—and I am terrified I am quoting my father—my father used to say, "The math always wins." Madam Speaker, the math always wins.

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

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 134. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 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.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

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.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until 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 on Certain Chemical Substances (17-4) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2017-0560; FRL-10000-69] (RIN: 2070-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 — Sulfoxaflor; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0599; FRL-9998-88] 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 — Isotianil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-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.

2777. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mandipropamid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-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.

2778. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — New Hampshire: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference [EPA-R01-UST-2019-0421; FRL-10001-60-Region 1] 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.

2779. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pendimethalin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0619; 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.

2780. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0422; FRL-10000-88-Region 9] 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.

2781. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Transport State Implementation Plans for the 1997 and 2008 Ozone Standards [EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0108; FRL-10001-37-Region 1] 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.

2782. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; OR: 2018 Permitting Rule Revisions [EPA-R10-OAR-2019-0269; FRL-10001-52-Region 10] 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.

2783. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fenbuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0300; FRL-9999-58] 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.

2784. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Lane County, Oregon; 2019 Permitting Rule Revisions [EPA-R10-OAR-2019-0426; FRL-10001-56-Region 10] 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.

2785. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0147; FRL-10001-32-Region 9] 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.

2786. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air plan Approval; Georgia;

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. 868); 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 Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R04-OAR-2018-0522; FRL-10001-35-Region 4] 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.

#### 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. H.R. 3111. 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. 116-261). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3167. A bill to reform and reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-262, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

*[Submitted October 29, 2019]*

Mr. NEAL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3398. A bill 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 (Rept. 116-265). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

*[Omitted from the Record of October 28, 2019]*

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3167 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia):

H.R. 4894. A bill to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERSON (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Geor-

gia, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 4895. A bill to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. MILLER, and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 4896. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a program to improve infrastructure development in Appalachia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 4897. 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 and long-term 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. 4898. 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. KUSTOFF of Tennessee):

H.R. 4899. 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. 4900. 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 GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. CRIST, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. BACON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KATKO, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BEYER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILD, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. SPANO):

H.R. 4901. 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. ESTES (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BRADY, Mr.

FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana):

H.R. 4903. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination by abortion against an unborn child on the basis of Down syndrome; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, 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 transportation 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 cost of insulin; 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. MCADAMS, 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 Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mr. COOK, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. COLE, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

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 expand the scope 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. MALINOWSKI, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 4910. A bill to prohibit the use of eminent domain for the construction or expansion of a natural gas pipe line through land conserved by certain land trusts and local governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself and Ms. SÁNCHEZ):

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 State child welfare and juvenile justice systems; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 4912. 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. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCANLON, 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 regarding the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 4894.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PETERSON:

H.R. 4895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The ability to regulate interstate commerce and with foreign nations pursuant to

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of The U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 4896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 4897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee:

H.R. 4898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 4899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, with respect to the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises," and to provide for the "general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 4900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, with respect to the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises," and to provide for the "general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 4901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article IV, Section 3, of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; . . . The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States

By Mrs. AXNE:

H.R. 4902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 4903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution the powers vested by the Constitution Section 5 of the 14th Amendment

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 4905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 4906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 4907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GALLEGGO:

H.R. 4908.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sect 8, Clause 18

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 4909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(Article I, Section 8, Clause 3)

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire:

H.R. 4910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: That Congress has the Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 4911.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, providing—"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 4912.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 35: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 38: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 141: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 333: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 372: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 388: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 451: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 541: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 554: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 587: Mr. KELLER and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 616: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 649: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 737: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 763: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 836: Mrs. ROBY and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 837: Mr. KIND and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 912: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 945: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 961: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 1042: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 1043: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1110: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1119: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 1120: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 1140: Ms. DEAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. YOUNG.

H.R. 1153: Mr. LUJAN.

H.R. 1154: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1161: Mr. PENCE.

- H.R. 1166: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. LIPINSKI.  
H.R. 1329: Ms. UNDERWOOD.  
H.R. 1349: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1374: Mr. RESCHENTHALER and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 1379: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. KATKO.  
H.R. 1380: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 1424: Mr. ALLRED.  
H.R. 1434: Mr. ABRAHAM.  
H.R. 1530: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.  
H.R. 1533: Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 1550: Mr. ABRAHAM.  
H.R. 1572: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.  
H.R. 1601: Mr. COMER.  
H.R. 1647: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 1695: Ms. DELAURO.  
H.R. 1713: Mr. AGUILAR and Ms. SPANBERGER.  
H.R. 1762: Mr. PASCRELL.  
H.R. 1763: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. LUCAS.  
H.R. 1771: Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 1780: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 1814: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. MARSHALL.  
H.R. 1816: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 1819: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MALINOWSKI, and Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 1840: Mr. COHEN and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 1854: Mr. MASSIE and Mr. GRIFFITH.  
H.R. 1897: Mr. FOSTER.  
H.R. 1903: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 1953: Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 1961: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 2093: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 2117: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 2137: Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 2146: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 2148: Ms. WATERS and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 2153: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BRINDISI, Ms. MENG, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. COOPER, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LURIA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TRONE, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 2166: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 2258: Mr. KHANNA.  
H.R. 2322: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 2382: Mr. YOHO.  
H.R. 2404: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 2412: Mr. DUNCAN.  
H.R. 2434: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.  
H.R. 2435: Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
H.R. 2478: Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 2482: Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 2491: Mr. SERRANO.  
H.R. 2501: Mr. SIMPSON.  
H.R. 2529: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 2573: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 2594: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Mr. YOUNG.  
H.R. 2602: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 2620: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.  
H.R. 2662: Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 2683: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 2689: Mr. YOUNG.  
H.R. 2693: Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. COLE, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MILLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GIANFORTE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, and Mr. FERGUSON.  
H.R. 2694: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. KHANNA.  
H.R. 2700: Mrs. WAGNER.  
H.R. 2771: Mr. HUIZENGA.  
H.R. 2775: Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 2788: Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 2808: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H.R. 2812: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.  
H.R. 2881: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. ALLRED.  
H.R. 2896: Mr. BERA and Mr. CARBAJAL.  
H.R. 2903: Mr. ABRAHAM.  
H.R. 2970: Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 2985: Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mr. STEUBE, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.  
H.R. 3077: Ms. DEAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. LAMB, Mr. SIRES, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. TRONE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.  
H.R. 3082: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 3103: Mr. OLSON and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.  
H.R. 3107: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. LONG, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. HECK.  
H.R. 3114: Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 3128: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. HIMES.  
H.R. 3162: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.  
H.R. 3180: Mr. LUJÁN.  
H.R. 3182: Mr. CASE, Mr. YOUNG, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H.R. 3224: Mr. CISNEROS.  
H.R. 3250: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.  
H.R. 3287: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.  
H.R. 3373: Mr. JEFFRIES.  
H.R. 3414: Mrs. AXNE.  
H.R. 3425: Mrs. AXNE.  
H.R. 3460: Ms. LEE of California.  
H.R. 3463: Mr. ROUDA, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. RICHMOND.  
H.R. 3495: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SMITH of Mis-souri, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 3529: Mrs. LURIA.  
H.R. 3559: Mr. KATKO and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.  
H.R. 3598: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 3654: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 3657: Mr. CASE and Mr. WATKINS.  
H.R. 3712: Ms. JAYAPAL.  
H.R. 3742: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. MEEKS.  
H.R. 3763: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
H.R. 3797: Mr. WALDEN.  
H.R. 3824: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 3851: Mrs. AXNE, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. LATTA, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 3896: Mr. GALLEG0 and Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 3910: Ms. UNDERWOOD.  
H.R. 3911: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Ms. JACK-SON LEE.  
H.R. 3956: Mr. QUIGLEY.  
H.R. 3957: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 3975: Mr. KINZINGER.  
H.R. 4038: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H.R. 4056: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 4141: Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 4144: Mr. SOTO.  
H.R. 4183: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 4194: Mr. KILMER and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.  
H.R. 4203: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.  
H.R. 4219: Mr. BURCHETT.  
H.R. 4228: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. WELCH.  
H.R. 4230: Mr. PAPPAS and Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 4248: Ms. WILD.  
H.R. 4249: Mrs. BUSTOS.  
H.R. 4304: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. COOK.  
H.R. 4307: Mr. CISNEROS.  
H.R. 4331: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RYAN, and Mrs. WAGNER.  
H.R. 4350: Mr. POSEY and Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 4399: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio and Mr. BUDD.  
H.R. 4436: Ms. HAALAND.  
H.R. 4458: Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. EMMER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.  
H.R. 4492: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 4506: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 4508: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 4527: Ms. HOULAHAN.  
H.R. 4580: Mrs. HARTZLER.  
H.R. 4581: Mrs. HARTZLER.  
H.R. 4636: Mr. MAST, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. ROO-NEY of Florida, Mr. YOHO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. CUELLAR.  
H.R. 4646: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 4650: Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 4686: Mr. HAGEDORN.  
H.R. 4692: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.  
H.R. 4694: Mr. HECK.  
H.R. 4695: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. FOXF of North Carolina, and Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 4713: Mr. TAYLOR.  
H.R. 4719: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 4736: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.  
H.R. 4738: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.  
H.R. 4753: Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 4754: Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. GALLEG0, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. HILL of Arkansas.  
H.R. 4767: Mr. HILL of Arkansas.  
H.R. 4779: Mr. GIANFORTE.  
H.R. 4782: Mr. TAYLOR.  
H.R. 4788: Mrs. AXNE.  
H.R. 4794: Mr. BRINDISI and Mr. DELGADO.  
H.R. 4801: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
H.R. 4802: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 4820: Ms. MENG and Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 4862: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ROGERS of Ken-tucky, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H. J. Res. 2: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. TAKANO.  
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. SIRES, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. BIGGS.  
H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. KELLER.  
H. Con. Res. 37: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. CAR-SON of Indiana.  
H. Con. Res. 65: Ms. DELBENE.  
H. Con. Res. 68: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio and Mr. WALKER.  
H. Res. 17: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. BERA.  
H. Res. 23: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H. Res. 107: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Ms. SPANBERGER.  
H. Res. 189: Ms. TITUS, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.  
H. Res. 230: Mr. CICILLINE.  
H. Res. 255: Ms. CHENEY.  
H. Res. 269: Ms. FRANKEL.  
H. Res. 296: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. BABIN.  
H. Res. 349: Mr. HECK and Mr. MOULTON.  
H. Res. 374: Mr. CORREA, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. DUNN, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 517: Mr. RYAN and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
 H. Res. 546: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. PHILLIPS.  
 H. Res. 585: 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. MEEKS, 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.



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## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, 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 House recently 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 Syria and the Middle East, without, 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

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



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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 policy. 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 retape.

Both of those efforts failed, but our Democratic colleagues are back at it—back at it—with another bad policy. 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 Colorado, 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 terribly fond of letting States shake off the unhelpful strictures of ObamaCare. Perhaps, it makes their signature law look bad that Governors of both parties are so eager to escape it.

That can't be their public argument. In their effort to reduce this flexibility, some Democrats are rehashing tired, old claims about a conspiracy to hurt Americans with preexisting conditions. Republicans have been clear, and we have been consistent. We support protections for Americans with preexisting conditions.

The CMS Administrator, Seema Verma, has specifically stated that "a section 1332 waiver cannot undermine coverage for people with pre-existing conditions." That is the head of CMS.

In fact, it is this Trump administration's policy that will help American

families, including those with pre-existing conditions, by helping to bring down the soaring premiums and restore the dwindling options that ObamaCare's failures have brought about.

I urge the Senate to reject this misguided resolution. We don't need healthcare policy from the supporters of "Medicare for None," Democrats' grand scheme to take away the health insurance plans of 180 million Americans and replace it with a one-size-fits-all government plan. Americans deserve more say, not less.

#### HEMP

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, when I joined President Trump last year as he signed the farm bill, we marked a new chapter for an historic American crop. In a victory for growers, processors, and manufacturers across the country, especially in my home State of Kentucky, my initiative for full hemp legalization became law.

This morning, the U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to take the important next step. Secretary Perdue will release a new USDA regulation to implement my initiative and move hemp closer to being treated just like every other commodity. This new policy will help farmers around the country continue pioneering this crop into the 21st century.

I am proud to say that Kentucky is prepared to take the lead. For generations, our growers and producers have made the Bluegrass State an agricultural powerhouse, well-positioned at the forefront of hemp's resurgence. Following the downturn in tobacco, it was my tobacco buyout legislation that helped farmers transition toward new opportunities, and a growing number are looking to this past crop—one grown by Washington, Jefferson, and Henry Clay—as they plan for the future.

As the buyout payments came to an end, I secured the creation of hemp pilot programs in the 2014 farm bill, empowering farmers and researchers to begin a multiyear experiment with hemp's capabilities.

Thanks to leaders like Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and his predecessor, now-Congressman JAMES COMER, Kentucky was leading the charge. The results were clear. The pilot program was working. So we knew the 2018 farm bill had to take the next step.

I am grateful to Agriculture Committee Chairman PAT ROBERTS, who included my hemp initiative in the bill that is now law. I would also like to thank the many Members on both sides of the aisle, including Senator RON WYDEN, who have helped in this effort as well.

My hemp provisions in the farm bill directed USDA to craft a new regulatory framework so hemp could be cultivated nationwide, with each State

given the opportunity to develop its own plan for hemp oversight.

I am grateful that Secretary Perdue accepted my invitation for a Kentucky hemp tour so he could see our progress up close and learn from Kentucky hemp farmers and regulators as USDA developed its policies.

This year alone, hemp is growing on more than 26,000 acres in Kentucky, across 101 of our 120 counties. It supports hundreds of jobs and tens of millions in sales.

I impressed upon USDA the need to finalize this new framework before the 2020 growing season. I would like to thank Secretary Perdue and the USDA for fulfilling this commitment with the announcement we are expecting later this morning. I look forward to reviewing USDA's guidelines and hearing from hemp stakeholders around Kentucky.

Our work to support the future of hemp is hardly over. There are ongoing conversations with the FDA on CBD products and ongoing work to help growers and retailers to access credit 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, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, 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, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

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.

## VENEZUELA

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 the country of 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 offered 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 electric 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 their 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 here as students and others are here 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 the 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 audiences in Florida and talks about confronting the Venezuelan dictatorship, then he 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 many such Venezuelans 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. 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 trying to use a 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 fails 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 could 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 relative 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.

## APPROPRIATIONS

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 doesn't know how to get out of it 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 wont 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 even be “delaying 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, urgently needed 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, the negotiated bipartisan 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 MCCONNELL, have the honor and decency and courage to tell President Trump that he is going to bolix 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, the IBEW, the AFL-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 new 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 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 also want to take the opportunity today, as I am managing the four bills in the unavoidable absence of the full committee chairman, Senator SHELBY, to talk about some of the other appropriations bills that have been brought before us.

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 for the 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 priorities that are 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 this 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, four of which 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 this 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 warming 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 lobster 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 why the entanglements 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 lobster stocks and about ensuring that lobsters are there for generations to come. They have been extraordinary conservationists. They invented the V-notching of lobsters, the sizing to make sure that lobsters that are big and breeders are tossed overboard or those that are too small are returned to the water. Unfortunately, our Canadian counterparts often do not follow those same cooperative conservation measures, and there is an area off the coast of Maine that is known as the gray zone, where it is in dispute whose waters—whether it is the United States or Canada's—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 keep those lobsters and, 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 fisheries 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 investments made through the EDA provide vital financial support for rural Mainers to boost economic growth and create more jobs. It has been an essential partner with States, with local governments, and with the private sector in boosting areas of Maine's economy.

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 fraud 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 illegal robocallers and increase 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 it will take to stem this epidemic.

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.

I want to finally highlight the increased funding for the Byrne-JAG and COPS hiring programs, and for the Regional Information Sharing Systems known as RISS. Many of Maine sheriffs have come and talked to me about the importance of the RISS Program. It supports a cooperative effort of information sharing to fight crimes at all levels and has been particularly useful to Maine's rural counties. There are also important investments supporting the FIRST STEP Act, which we passed late 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 make sure those who are being released from our jails and prisons have the skills and tools they need to pursue a lawful life and not resort to their previous habits that landed them in jail. That is why the educational and job training programs we have in Maine and elsewhere are so important and will be expanded by this bill.

Those are just a few of the terrific provisions that are in the CJS appropriations bill. Again, I commend the chairman, the ranking member, and the entire Appropriations Committee for their hard work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I recognize the majority whip.

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to say I was sad to hear of the death of former Senator Kay Hagan yesterday. Kay represented the State of North Carolina in the Senate.

She was a very dedicated public servant. I think she was someone whom all of us who were here at the time enjoyed working with and always was a very bright presence. As I said, she was tremendously dedicated to the people she represented and the issues she cared so deeply about. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family today. I ask all Members to continue to lift her family up.

H. R. 3055

Mr. President, I also congratulate the Senator from Maine on the work she is doing on the appropriations process as it is moving forward. She chairs a very important subcommittee on the Appropriations Committee and also is involved in so many other issues.

One thing she was speaking about that I certainly wanted to mention was the work she does to protect seniors across this country. It is a very vulnerable population—vulnerable to the

fraud attempts made by bad actors out there. She mentioned robocalls. She has been a leader on the legislation to try and ban the types of robocalls that prey on our senior citizens and lead to all that fraud that happens—the billions of dollars she referenced every single year. It is important because there are so many perpetrators of schemes out there that are designed to prey on and take advantage of those populations in our country, particularly our elderly who are susceptible to that. I thank her for her leadership on that, as well as many other issues that are involved in the appropriations bill she mentioned earlier.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS

Mr. President, later this week, we are going to vote on a Democratic resolution to repeal guidance the President issued to give States more flexibility to design insurance plans that meet the needs of their residents. Democrats have tried to portray this resolution as a move to protect people with preexisting conditions. That is just a smokescreen. Democrats know very well that Republicans are committed to protecting those with preexisting conditions.

In reality, this is just another political messaging bill. It is also another attempt by Democrats to maximize Washington control of American's healthcare. In keeping with their push toward socialism, Democrats want to make very sure the States don't have the chance to escape from any of ObamaCare's bureaucracy.

Let me back up a minute and talk about the waiver and guidance from the President the Democrats are attacking. Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act—the law the Democrats enacted on a completely partisan basis—allows States to apply for waivers from certain ObamaCare requirements. The requirements that can and cannot be waived are the same today as they were the day ObamaCare passed. Let me repeat that. The ObamaCare requirements that can or cannot be waived are the same today as they were the day ObamaCare passed.

The 2018 guidance from the White House did not change anything about what requirements can and cannot be waived under section 1332. Let me be very clear, 1332 waivers do not allow States to waive ObamaCare's preexisting condition protections; they do not allow health plans to utilize preexisting condition coverage exclusions; they do not allow health plans to refuse coverage for people with preexisting conditions; and they do not allow plans to charge individuals more based on a preexisting health condition.

So what do 1332 waivers do? The waivers give States the opportunity to take action to stabilize insurance markets and try out new ways of providing coverage to individuals who might not otherwise be able to afford insurance. 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 7 out of the 8 years of the Obama administration.

Another refrain that we will hear from my Democratic colleagues is that the administration's guidance will permit States to waive certain health benefits, or what we call EHBs. 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 for 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 when it was passed. Yet 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. Health insurance 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, in fact, 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 healthcare more affordable and 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 State with a 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 American's healthcare that they are determined to oppose any ObamaCare 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, there being 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 bipartisan bills that will end up getting passed here in this Chamber this week that will then go over to the House where they will be conferenced with the five bills they have passed. The bills aren't that far apart in terms of the total amount of money each 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.

H.R. 3055

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 replaced that are obsolete, 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 opportunity 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 the 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 keep 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. Ev-

eryone 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? Where is it going? It is going toward better equipment 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 past 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 are looking. 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 they cannot continue to 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, and for computer programmers and coders in almost every sector of our economy. This morning, if you go to [ohiomeansjobs.com](http://ohiomeansjobs.com), you will see some of these jobs advertised. There are about 150,000 jobs out there. 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 484,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs across America. Yet the study found that the skills gap may leave an estimated 2.4 million manufacturing jobs unfilled between 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

gap. 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 no debt.

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 shorter 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 bachelor's 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 training programs, it is highly likely, based on the experience we have looked at, that they will get those 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 that are easily transferable 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 students 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 to, maybe to get a 2-year or a 4-year 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, who 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 here in this 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 included in President 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 this skills gap that we have. 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—320 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 help Ohioans 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.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1044

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 reopened. 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 in a financial 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, and I am glad 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, along with 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 these 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 I have filed 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 this that 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 it is to solve 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 170,000 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 State legislatures. 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.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking our colleague, 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 the facts. But 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 folks 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 not only locked out a lot of Federal workers from doing their jobs, not only did the Small Business Administration freeze approvals of small business loans, which were important to many businesses around the country, not only did the Department of Agriculture shutter the farm service centers in rural communities, not only did thousands of homeowners face long delays

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 two 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 something that was totally beyond their control.

I thank Senator SMITH. I thank our colleague 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 thank the Senator from Minnesota. 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 smallest counties 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 Jose Andres'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 suddenly without paychecks through no fault of their own. These workers—800,000 of them—worked directly for the Federal Government. We were able to secure backpay for those workers and in a very positive way. 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 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?

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 start back up again.

The people I meet who are in this category are very hard-working. They are security guards; they are cafeteria workers; they are cleaning staff; they are IT workers—people whose diligent functioning in their jobs sort of keep the lights on and the enterprise going.

Missing a whole month's pay is not a trivial thing for most American families, and many of the families had to borrow, rely on friends and families to get by, and used the services of soup kitchens or clothes closets. Many likely are still carrying debt incurred because of the shutdown. Some had to make withdrawals from their Federal Thrift Savings Plans, with penalty and interest because of that.

The individuals were affected, but it is also, bluntly, their families, and even the communities and local businesses in and around where there are these contracting employees.

During the shutdown, I asked Virginians to share stories with me, and many did. These are Federal employees who were affected by the shutdown, but it was not just the employees who shared it, it was also these contractors.

Of course, I did hear a number of stories of Virginians coming together. I had a chance to go work as a volunteer at the DC Central Kitchen, and what struck me is how many of the volunteers were people who had been furloughed. They weren't being paid, and they wanted to serve their fellow Americans, but because they were being locked out of their office, they decided to go to the Central Kitchen and work serving meals to their Federal colleagues.

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 government contractor for a small business. My entire household income depends on serving government clients, which I am unable to do in light of the government shutdown. My company is losing revenue every day and has arrived at the point where we must force employees to use vacation, take 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 recourse. I've 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 business[es] 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. After two weeks of shutdown and no end in sight, we are nearing a point where we are losing revenue (because our people can't work), invoices are not getting paid by the Government and we are facing a dire cash flow situation. This will affect our ability to make payroll needing to borrow monies 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 have been furloughed due to the government shutdown, and because of my status as a contractor will not be receiving compensation 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 losing, and 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 have savings to 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 free 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 that Federal workers would be treated fairly. I think Senator SMITH's amendment, which I am proud to be an original cosponsor of, that I hope we will have a chance to take up, would remedy the situation with respect to these workers. This is not for every contractor. This is the Fair Compensation for Low-Wage Workers Act, so it is specifically focused on compensation for the contractors who receive low wages, those who are most vulnerable and were most affected by losing salary for 5 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 leader 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 and add backpay 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 build in a little bit of firewall against a shutdown, I actually think having a rule, a norm, that we would provide backpay for low-wage Federal contractors also 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank Senator Kaine for his work on this and speaking out on it. It is an issue of justice, an issue of fairness, and an issue that—I mean, how can you be 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 terms of human rights 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 are 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 their planes or 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 are ignored. They are 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 employed by private contractors, not the 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 billionaires—Cabinet with their massive investment portfolios. But for most Americans—most Americans—missing a paycheck is a big deal.

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 my mortgage or paying for my medications at the local CVS. They take money out of their savings, if they have any savings. It is awfully hard to have savings at \$10, \$12, and \$14 an hour. They take money out of those savings. Or, more likely, in the case of these contractors who earn \$10, \$12 and \$14 an hour, they turn to family members; they run up their credit cards; they go to payday lenders; and they never get out from under that, as you know.

Some of them—many, many of them—are still dealing with the debt. I remember talking to cafeteria workers in Senator Kaine's State in Arlington. Federal contractor workers who serve food in our Smithsonian museums are not Federal workers. Most people who go to the Smithsonian figure people who are serving the food and cleaning the place or cleaning the offices and exhibits are probably government employees, but they are not.

One worker told me: I have to pay rent, and I have other bills. I have a college student in his second semester, and he needs help with his books.

The president of one SEIU local, which represents janitors and security officers, said that those workers and their families “will continue to relive the trauma on a daily basis until they are compensated for 35 days of income”—35 days of income they went without. They are already living on the edge, and this body, because of its inaction, because of its head in the sand, because of its—pardon my language—boneheadedness, simply ignores them and just washes their hands. They say, “I don't know who they are, and I don't know their names, so we are not going to do anything to help them,” even though it was the Trump shutdown that betrayed these workers.

The same President betrays workers by denying the overtime pay they have earned. The same President puts people in the Supreme Court who put their thumb on the scale of justice always to support corporations over workers, always to support Wall Street over consumers, and always to support health insurance companies over patients. Put on top of that the Trump tax cuts—a massive giveaway to the wealthiest 1 percent.

I spoke to a group of union members today. They want a transportation bill. They want an infrastructure bill. They know what the bridge looks like connecting my State in Cincinnati over the Ohio River with that of the Republican leader down the hall—Senator McConnell's State. They know the needs there. I have to say, we got no money because of this tax cut that my friends over here voted for, most of which went to the wealthiest 1 percent.

Because of the Trump shutdown, these workers we are talking about

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 ask 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—includes an offset.

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 University 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.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHELBY; VICE CHAIRMAN LEAHY; CHAIRMAN HOEVEN; AND RANKING MEMBER MERKLEY: On behalf of the Council of 1890 Presidents, I am writing to express our support for Senator BROWN and Senator JONES' amendment to the FY 2020 Agriculture Appropriations bill to fund the newly

created Centers of Excellence. As you know, these new Centers were authorized and created in the 2018 Farm Bill. The work of these Centers is a critical part of the future research in several strategic areas that our Universities will do on behalf of the country.

I understand that the amendment being considered by the Senate would provide half of the authorized annual funding for the new Centers. While we certainly appreciate that effort, we strongly encourage the Congress to fully fund the Centers to their authorized level. These Centers were promised to our Universities almost 30 years ago and while we are pleased that they are close to being a functioning reality, without this initial funding they will not get off-the-ground.

Again, we strongly support Senator BROWN and Senator JONES' efforts and look forward to working with you to have this amendment included in the final version of the FY 2020 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

Sincerely,

KENT J. SMITH, Jr., Ph.D.,  
Chair, Council of 1890  
University Presidents,  
President,  
Langston University.

Mr. BROWN. Dr. 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 my colleagues 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 unanimously; 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.

I know if 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.

He mentioned some of the union workers he was talking to this morning, and they want Congress to function as it should, which means we should pass our appropriations bills, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill that the 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 on 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 all across our country, including the fast-growing States like those the Presiding Officer 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 impeachment mania, does not prove to be true. But the storm clouds are on the horizon, and I am becoming increasingly convinced that, unfortunately, that is the only thing 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 ABU 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 terrorist organization that has dominated the news—finally came to an end, and President Trump announced the 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 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, our servicemembers, 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 troops 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 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—they get none of the benefit of 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 an adult, and she 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-rationing 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 proved 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 very complex 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 patent system to stave 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 biosimilar 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 jumbled 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 coverage of a 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 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 prices for 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 do more 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 Congressional 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 for Medicare and Medicaid; 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 passing the 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 gravedigger-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 colleague's 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 for sure that their prescription medications aren't getting any cheaper. So I would urge our colleague, 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 p.m.

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 that would 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 gaming of the patent system in which a 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 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 looked at the manufacture 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 generic or in this case biosimilar from coming to the market. Yet 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 Presiding Officer 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 these crashes involved the same aircraft, 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 the 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 Presiding Officer, 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 hold accountable 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 we questioned the Acting Deputy Administrator and the Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety on the agency's review of the MAX aircraft, as well as the agency's aircraft 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.

First and foremost, it is 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 their 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, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, 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 Presiding Officer, my voice is being converted into an electrical signal, as she knows. It is being sent to her phone 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 simple answer to "What is 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 surgery thousands 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 possible 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 do. Every country owns its own radio waves. If there is any doubt, the Communications Act of 1934 says that the United States of America—you and I—own that radio wave and the ability to send that radio wave from my cell phone to the Presiding Officer's cell phone.

You will not be surprised to learn that not all radio waves—I told you

there were millions of them, billions of them—are made in the same way. There is a special kind of radio wave that is just perfect for fifth-generation wireless technology. This is called the C band. The C band is between 3.7 gigahertz and 4.2 gigahertz. That is the frequency. I think of it as being a certain type of radio wave that is perfect for C band that can be sent through the air to effectuate 5G. That certain radio wave and the air and the right to execute that service belongs to the American people, and the FCC is in charge of it.

The FCC auctions these radio waves all the time. When those at a radio company or a television company or an internet company say, "I need to use some of those radio waves," they go to the FCC. The FCC says: OK, we are going to auction that radio wave off because we believe in competition and because these radio waves belong to the American people, and so we want to get the best price.

In the last 25 years, the FCC has conducted over 100 auctions of radio waves. The FCC doesn't call them radio waves. It calls them spectrum. You have heard the term "spectrum auction." The FCC has done a public auction—over 100 of them—of these various radio waves, or bands of spectrum, and has brought in \$123 billion for the American people. It has done an incredible job.

Now we are about to assign the special radio waves for 5G. I don't blame them for trying. Yet there are three foreign-owned satellite companies, two foreign companies from Luxembourg—I love Luxembourg; it is a great country—and one foreign corporation from Canada—I love Canada—that have gone to the FCC and said they can do an auction faster than the FCC can.

We need to get these 5G radio waves out to the wireless companies really fast. These three foreign satellite 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 everybody 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 \$60 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 President just 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. And what is our FCC thinking about doing? 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 these 5G airwaves to a foreign corporation, we need to know whom they are going to give it to. What if 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 great for the cities. That is where it is going first. But what about the people who don't live in the city? What I would 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 they are going to get, and use it for rural broadband to make sure the people who live in rural areas get taken care of as well as the people who live in the cities because our wireless technology companies are going to have to be encouraged. They make a whole lot more money selling in a city than they do out in the rural areas.

Remember, this foreign corporation group says they can do an auction faster, even though they have never done an auction in their lives. They say: We can do it faster, and we have to beat China. So give us the radio waves. We will do a quick auction. We get to keep the \$60 billion, but we will get it out there.

There is just one problem: All those wireless technology companies that didn't get to bid—every single one of them is going to file suit if we don't do a public auction. So we are going to have this tied up in court for 20 years. We are going to be so far behind China. China is going to have lapped us several times. We are going to think we are in first place, but we are really going to be in last place.

I have held hearings—not because of anything that I did or any competence on my part. I am chairman of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, and the only reason I

got the job is seniority, OK? Nonetheless, I got it, and the FCC is under my jurisdiction. I have been holding hearings, and I am going to hold more hearings.

So far, the only reason that anybody can give me to take these 5G airwaves and give them to a foreign corporation is that they think they can do it faster, despite the fact that we will have litigation and despite the fact that they have never done an auction before.

The best way to resist temptation, in my opinion, is a proper upbringing, a strong set of values, and witnesses. We need to have a public auction of this internet, of the 5G radio waves. Everybody needs to compete. If we don't want a foreign company to get control of it—and I don't—we can put it in the bid specs. Huawei need not apply. Not personal, but as long as you spy for China, you can't work here.

We need a level playing field. We need to have competition. Competition is a moral good. Everybody needs to get an equal bite at the apple. This doesn't need to be done in a backroom, swampy deal. I am not saying that anybody's brother-in-law is going to get taken care of here. I am not saying that, but it sure looks swampy. And we need to do it exactly like we have done for the 100 past broadband spectrum auctions.

I am saying that not only to our Senate colleagues here, but I hope I am speaking clearly enough to the FCC. Do the right thing. Don't give away \$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 just addressing, 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 has raised in terms of the security threats that will be posed if we end up with the wrong vendor in 5G are an enormous problem.

I don't always agree with this President. On this item, he is right. My hope is that he will stick to his guns and not trade that away in a trade negotiation with China.

I also know that getting spectrum aligned the right way has been one of our challenges because other nations have been able to, frankly, in Asia and elsewhere, align spectrum better, so the underpinnings are better positioned than we are. So how we do this is 100 percent right.

Let me also say that whether it is Louisiana or Virginia, one of the issues I hear the most—I am not talking far world; I am talking small towns and midsize cities in Virginia, and I am sure the same is the case in 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 also 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.

(The 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 also to 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 priority list, which is why we are here today to introduce the American Miners Act amendment to the appropriations minibuss 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. I know 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 as well, 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 pensioners—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 it.

Again, I thank the Senator from West Virginia. I will turn it back to the Senator from West Virginia, but I also want to again acknowledge the Senator from Pennsylvania, who has also been a leader on this. Let's make sure we commit to get this done.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I thank Senator WARNER. I appreciate very much the hard fight to get in the middle of this with me and everybody else that is in this room right now that is in this fight because we have a lot of people's lives at stake.

I came to the floor and warned that, without passing this bill, the American Miners Act, the UMWA pension fund would be insolvent by 2022, and that timeline could be accelerated to within a year if one of the major coal companies declared bankruptcy. Last night, that happened.

Murray Energy, the largest coal company in the United States, filed for bankruptcy, making it the eighth coal company in the past 12 months to do so. Murray Energy has contributed 97 percent of the money going into the UMWA pension fund annually. With Murray's bankruptcy filing, the UMWA pension fund will become insolvent even faster. They are telling me, by this time next year, there will have to be drastic cuts into people's pension checks and, if not, eliminated.

Most of those checks, I would remind everybody watching and listening, are \$600 or less, and most of them are for widows from their husbands that have passed away. They still depend on them for their basic necessities of life.

Once the United Mine Workers Pension fund becomes insolvent, this is going to start the snowballing effect. The crisis will truly go into a snowball effect and impact every other multiemployer and pension fund for America.

To say that this does not affect all of America is wrong because anybody that goes to work and pays into a benefit package, with their employer matching it, is in this same condition and in this same vulnerability. That is going to be another day that I am going to be speaking about this and what we can do to prohibit that from happening also.

That is why it is essential that we protect the coal miners' pensions now—not next year, not the year after, but now—and the reason for that is it is going to be too late if we do it any later than now.

The only problem is that we have a little bit of a stumbling block with the majority leader, Senator McCONNELL. I know he is concerned about other pensions. We are all concerned about other

pensions, but this is on the front burner now. When this happens, everything else will tumble and snowball with it.

The American Miners Act would amend the current Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer the funds. These are 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 \$490 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 same 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.

Everybody 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 the wages that they have contributed 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 benefit from filing for bankruptcy. 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 raiders 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 minibuss 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 minibuss that the Senate is planning to pass this week.

If we include the American Miners Act in the minibuss, 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. Less than \$600 is 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 is very small at times. This 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 if we can agree, in a bipartisan way, to do 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 complained. They have done the heavy lifting. They mined the coal. They made these buildings and built the guns and ships. 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 super power 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 somebody 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. I would appreciate it very much. I appreciate my dear friend from Pennsylvania, who has the same hard-working 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, for his work on behalf of American workers generally, but, in particular, his passionate advocacy and his hard work to make sure that we, in this body, the United States Senate, that we do everything we can to keep our promise.

I pick up from where he left off. As he has so often said when he came to this floor, as he did today, to talk about the people whose retirement security is on the line, this debate applies to a whole range of workers, but when you consider just coal miners and their families, who have given the country so much, I am reminded of a story from my home area, northeastern Pennsylvania.

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 novel, "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 mine was a place of inscrutable 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. Some of them even 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 either 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 exports. This could 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.

Now, there is another bill that deals with 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 GRIJALVA 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.

So, in the House, they are doing voice votes to advance legislation to help these workers, to help miners, and here, there is not even a vote—voice vote, rollcall vote, any kind of vote. We are not asking for days of floor time. All we are asking for is a short time for debate, but mostly, we are just asking for a vote. That vote is real simple: Keep your promise. Keep our promise and the promise our country made to these miners and the promise that our employers make to workers every day of the week. There is still a lot of work to do on pensions generally, as outlined by some of these bills, but they have kept their promise over and over again. It is about time we kept our promise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

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 hard-working 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 summarized by Congress and the President of the United States, and all 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, “I owe 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 to ask 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.

S.J. RES. 52

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 way up. I strongly oppose the passage of this resolution, and I strongly opposed 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, and 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. Well, it is very welcome news for people who have to pay these premiums. Yet, what we see is that the 2020 Democratic candidates, when you listen to them, don’t seem to be concerned about lowering the costs. They are too busy pushing this astronomically expensive \$34 trillion Medicare for All health insurance healthcare scheme—one that by Republicans and Democrats alike has been called a pipe dream.

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 promises 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 what the Bernie Sanders-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—the 180 million people who have earned 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 States more flexibility. The Presiding Officer’s State and mine like to have flexibility to provide better coverage and to bring premium costs down.

We need to set the record straight on one key point. Section 1332 never can be used to waive protections for the American people, such as for people with preexisting conditions. They can never waive those. It is not happening.

My wife is a breast cancer survivor. She has had three operations, chemotherapy twice, and dozens of radiation treatments. I know, as a doctor and as a husband, how important it is for patients to have protections of their preexisting conditions. Republicans remain 100 percent committed to protecting people with preexisting conditions. We will protect them today, tomorrow, and always.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman, GREG WALDEN, asked the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for clarification regarding this section 1332. Administrator Seema Verma responded: “To be very clear, the 2018 guidance does nothing to erode the [healthcare law’s] preexisting condition provisions, which cannot be waived under section 1332.”

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the CMS Administrator’s letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Hon. GREG WALDEN,

Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WALDEN: Thank you for your continued interest in new state flexibility available under guidance recently issued interpreting section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) (the 2018 guidance). Working within the limitations of the PPACA, this 2018 guidance is an important element of the Administration’s actions to expand options and lower costs for patients around the country. I wanted to take this opportunity to set the record straight and reaffirm this Administration’s commitment to lowering healthcare costs, increasing consumer choices, and protecting our most vulnerable citizens, including those who have pre-existing conditions.

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 conditions exclusions. Furthermore, a section 1332 waiver cannot be approved that might otherwise undermine these requirements. This Administration stands committed to protecting people with pre-existing conditions.

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 benchmark plan for a family of four on 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 monthly premiums. For example, a 60-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.

For millions of Americans, coverage this expensive is not a realistic option, and many choose to go without coverage at all. In fact, after average premiums rose by 21 percent, 1.3 million unsubsidized people walked away 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 deficit neutrality. Section 1332 allows states to develop new healthcare programs and solutions that would be not 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 effect of significantly 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 states with significant opportunities to chart a different course for their markets through expanded flexibility. Section 1332 and the 2018 guidance ensure that consumers who wish to retain coverage similar to that provided under the PPACA can do so, but they empower states to take steps to stabilize their markets and allow more affordable coverage 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 flexibility discussed in the 2018 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 2018 guidance, claiming that states will pursue section 1332 waivers that undermine their own individual market risk pools and make coverage more expensive for their own residents with pre-existing conditions. Again, I want to make clear that a section 1332 waiver cannot undermine coverage 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 guarantee 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, the state must ensure 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-exist-

ing 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.

Sincerely,

SEEMA VERMA.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, the letter proves that all patients will be protected. Section 1332 simply gives States some leeway—a little wiggle room for following the law and 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 that the people 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 waivers have been 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, Delaware, Montana, 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 both.

Take a look at what has happened for the proposed premiums for 2020—what they are expected to be in 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 on 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, rates will fall by 8 percent. In Rhode Island, with a Democratic Governor and two Democratic Senators, rates will fall by about 6 percent.

So in State after State where Democratic Governors applied for and were granted a waiver, they have seen rates 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 Democrats 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 them for years into the future 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 so that patients can make more informed decisions.

Even as we address this issue and vote on this joint resolution tomorrow, it is time to really take a look at what the Democrats are saying in the Senate as opposed to what the Democrats who are in the statehouses are doing across the country.

I say, let's make sure the States can keep the relief they are asking for and are getting by rejecting what the Democrats in the Senate are proposing. 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.

Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, I rise today to address one of the biggest concerns facing everyday families in Arizona: making healthcare more affordable and maintaining critical healthcare 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 for many Arizonans and offers elected officials the opportunity to reject partisan political games in favor of commonsense solutions.

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.

Arizonans who 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 promises of 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 high 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—critical needs 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 the rug 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 cover essential health benefits. That is why it is so disturbing that the administration and some Members of Congress have begun 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 billing, 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 achieves these goals, but allowing 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 mislead Arizonans—selling something 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 yet again.

I hear from hard-working Arizonans 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, Corrine's family 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 after he paid his 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 Arizonans whose healthcare is at risk. These Arizonans remind us exactly what is at stake and exactly what is wrong with partisan politics in Washington today. 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.

Arizonans 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 Representatives is holding an impeachment inquiry, 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 actions deserve impeachment or perhaps even removal from office. It is, I think, inappropriate to reach that point. Instead, I am here today, as the inquiry proceeds in the House, to urge my colleagues 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 Senate 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 Senate, all of us must decide to approach it as Americans—less as people representing any parochial or partisan or particular interest, less as Democrats or Republicans or Independents, and instead as Senators. If we are called to serve as jurors in an impeachment trial, 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 challenge of this moment. They warned specifically that foreign powers improperly influencing our American Government were, in the words of Alexander Hamilton, "the most deadly adversaries of republican government." This is why our Constitution entrusts Congress with the enormous power of potential removal through impeachment.

James Madison called impeachment "indispensable . . . for defending the Community [against] the incapacity, negligence or perfidy of the chief Magistrate"—a reference to the President. Alexander Hamilton argued that the Senate was the proper body to hold an impeachment trial. The Founders entrusted 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 precise language that appears in our Constitution, the language of "high crimes and misdemeanors" and urged that impeachment must be a remedy to remove 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. This fundamental principle remains the very linchpin of our government.

Based on what we know today from press reports about the President's actions and from notes of a conversation, I believe it is critical that the House conduct a thorough impeachment inquiry. If the House does vote impeachment 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 impeachment, it will be the Senate's duty to vote to remove him. It will be, instead, the responsibility of every single Senator to carry out their duty to serve as impartial jurors with their principle focus—their oath—to uphold and defend the Constitution and nothing 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 our vigorous disagreements with this President and 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 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’s counsel presents his defense; 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 Senate of 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 mean that our 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 shape and 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 to our President or to any other 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 a remarkable leader.

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 Gardeners Guild of the Arden Club. Sonny credited her parents for raising her in an atmosphere of active community involvement.

Throughout her life, she was exceptionally bright and gifted. As an honors graduate of Wilmington High School, she pursued a bachelor’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 master’s 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 were, frankly, inseparable for the rest of their lives, fell in love. A few years later, they were married at Temple Beth Emeth on Memorial 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 or 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 restrictions on access to reproductive rights, she launched and ran a capital campaign to build a brandnew 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 than I could relate in my time on the floor.

Her legacy of service to our State, which began more than 60 years ago, steadily grew over the next 50, 60 years. She eventually formed her own fundraising firm, and according to Sonny, it 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.

Besides supporting 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 the Vice President. She 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 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 get a new job, and helped him 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 even agreed to put up the deed of her own home to bail out a Vietnam war protester from jail. These were the sorts of things Sonny did that many have never heard of.

She won too many awards in our State to name, but she was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Delaware Women. Yet she wasn’t the sort of person to hold up these accomplishments.

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 in the State Senate, because of Sonia 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 at the forefront.

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—to focus on 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 continue to be 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 rivaled 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, neigh-

bors, 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.

H.R. 3055

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, and Related Agencies; the 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 shortly.

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 deaths 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 on its 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 more fully funded grant to go 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 to 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, in order 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 a great thing 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 year-round destination for 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, HEINRICH, COLLINS, and SHAHEEN—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 as to the ski 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 forests from which they were generated. That means more timely permit application processing at 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 our public transit 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 early, had 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 has 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, where 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 pre-eminent 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 scientists—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 Appropriation 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, 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 United States 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 package 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 health, education, nutrition, and job outcomes. And those issues, combined with homelessness and lack of affordable housing, combine with other issues to create strains on government and other 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, to 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.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS

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 preexisting 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 are children.

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 skirts 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 State waiver applications to ignore statutory guardrails to ensure that coverage is not less affordable under a waiver, especially for those with high healthcare spending. This new guidance also sets a dangerous precedent, where a State waiver could skew numbers to disproportionately count junk plans in a State's total number of lives covered.

The updated 1332 guidance again makes it very clear that President Trump and this administration do not support affordable insurance for those with preexisting conditions. I was proud to join Senator WARNER in introducing a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the administration's 1332 waiver guidance to ensure protections for individuals with preexisting conditions.

The harm done by this administration towards individuals 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 the ACA. Nearly 130 million non-elderly Americans rely on the protections provided by the ACA to guarantee that no insurer could deny them coverage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I would like to address my colleagues to discuss one of the latest attempts from the Trump administration to undermine and sabotage the Affordable Care Act. This week, the Senate will vote on a Congressional Resolution of Disapproval—CRA—on a Trump administration final rule that gives States broad latitude to ignore the consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act.

The rule essentially gives patients in those States the choice between health insurance that doesn't provide coverage when it is needed the most—so-called junk plans—or being priced out of the health insurance market entirely.

As we have already seen, Republican lawmakers in some States are more than eager to dismantle the protections of the Affordable Care Act and bring back the days of insurance companies being in charge, putting profits above the health of consumers in those States.

In fact, about 20 such States have gone a step further by moving forward a lawsuit seeking to invalidate the ACA in its entirety. This is not a theoretical threat to our healthcare system. 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.

Not only will this upend the healthcare system as we know it in those States, this ruling would apply to every State, even those like my home State of Rhode Island, which has done an outstanding job of implementing the ACA, expanding coverage, and making healthcare more affordable for all.

The Affordable Care Act has given individuals and families more choice, more affordable options, and more control over their healthcare. With these new options for health coverage, the uninsured rate in Rhode Island has reached historic lows, hovering around 4 percent.

Today, because the ACA is the law of the land, insurance companies can no longer deny you coverage for preexisting conditions or put an annual lifetime cap on how much they will pay for your care. Because of the ACA, young adults can stay on their parents' plans until they turn 26 years of age, and women cannot be charged more based on their gender. Also, under the ACA, basic healthcare services like maternity care and behavioral and mental healthcare must be covered.

The ACA has helped keep costs down by requiring insurance companies to provide preventive care at no charge so that the small things do not turn into bigger, expensive medical problems, like surgery.

Yet President Trump continues to put all of this progress at risk. The rule that we are voting to invalidate this week is just one such example. In his first year in office, President Trump failed to pass his bill to repeal the ACA when he had Republican majorities in both the House and the Senate.

Despite widespread opposition to these efforts, the administration has since moved forward with its sabotage strategy in the absence of a legislative win. President Trump ended Federal funding for a key ACA program which helps keep plans more affordable for those in the private market by covering some costs for patients with the most expensive medical conditions.

Next, the administration put forth new rules which allowed more junk plans, plans which can charge more for preexisting conditions and that can refuse to cover needed health services.

Now, the rule subject to this week's vote goes one step further in allowing States to expand these partisan attempts to weaken the ACA, increase costs on consumers, and increase the uninsured rate. If this was not enough, a single court case, championed by partisans looking for a political win, could overturn ACA as soon as next year.

If President Trump's strategy succeeds, many Americans will suffer. Preexisting condition protections will go away, and over 50 million Americans with preexisting medical conditions will go back to being priced out of coverage.

The Medicaid expansion that helps States cover more than 12 million Americans will also go away. Young adults will be kicked off their parents' insurance. Women could be charged more, as would older Americans. People will lose access to mental healthcare, and prescription drug costs for seniors will go up.

In Rhode Island, it is estimated that approximately 100,000 people could lose coverage if President Trump's lawyers convince the courts to cut down the ACA. The State will lose hundreds of millions of dollars in Federal funding for healthcare, all to satisfy President Trump's and congressional Republicans' desire for a political win at the expense of the American people.

We cannot afford to go back to the days when insurance companies were in control. We cannot wait until the Trump administration and Congressional Republicans come up with a plan.

The ACA was signed into law almost 10 years ago and still its opponents have no alternatives.

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 interventions that prevent more expensive conditions down the road.

Congress has made significant bipartisan progress over the last couple of years on the opioid epidemic, providing considerable funding to States to help people access treatment to get on the path to recovery.

However, one of most effective interventions in the epidemic has been the ACA's Medicaid expansion, helping those with substance abuse disorders get treatment and get back on their feet.

Without the ACA, the bipartisan laws Congress has passed in response to the opioid epidemic will be nowhere near enough in both effort and funding to successfully combat this crisis.

We have also seen new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing growing rates of suicide in this country, especially among young people—nothing short of an epidemic. I have been working with my colleagues across the aisle, such as Senator KENNEDY from Louisiana, to increase funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and with Senator GARDNER to make the Lifeline more accessible. This is important work. We need to ensure that, when someone courageously reaches out to get help in a time of crisis, that we are able to connect them with affordable mental healthcare for the long term. Without the ACA, that care may be out of reach.

There is certainly more we can be doing to increase access to healthcare, and I have been working with my colleagues to do just that. However, allowing the administration to continue its efforts to destroy the ACA not only undermines healthcare for the most vulnerable Americans, but also all of

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 to make 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, her spirit, her 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—we were together 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 but 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 was not afraid to go 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 extraordinary 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 almost 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 materials and products and sales. It has been a remarkable dream for them.

I stood on a platform with the leadership of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, members of the Shawnee community, sitting right next to folks from the Canadian Consulate and a Canadian business owner who is opening up a manufacturing plant in just a couple of months, right there on that spot, to be the first company in that location to start doing international trade in that part of Oklahoma.

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 community—the first thing you would think of probably wouldn't be international trade, but it should be now.

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 a new trade 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 in the 1990s. 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 to protect what they have 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 that we handle marine litter, the way that 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 waiting on a vote in the House of Representatives.

Mexico has already long since passed it. They have not only passed 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 mo-

mentum 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 additional jobs, it is additional 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 nodding their head, 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 problems 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 about tariffs and about 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 policies 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 workers and deal with 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, as they are finalizing the final moments of how they are going to deal with a trade deal with China, I continue to encourage them to keep doing the work. 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. CASIDY). 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 exchanges and 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 healthcare, emergency care, and more.

When Senate Democrats took a stand against this dangerous lawsuit and introduced this legislation to fight for patients and protect their care, Senate Republicans ducked for cover and did not bring it to a vote, just like they have done with Senate Democrats' efforts to bring down drug prices through impactful steps like Medicare negotiation, or to restore funding to help people find the care that is right for them when open enrollment starts this week, or make coverage more affordable for working families.

Democrats in the House have already made progress on some of these steps, from successfully joining the lawsuit to fight for patients to passing legislation that would restore navigator funding, reverse President Trump's harmful junk insurance rule, and more.

Republicans in the Senate have blatantly failed to live up to their promise to fight for families' healthcare instead of working with us on these steps to help our families and protect patients with preexisting conditions—to do what families sent us here for. They have buried each of these solutions in their legislative graveyard so that they don't even have to admit on the record that they aren't doing anything to help protect families' care—well, not tomorrow. Tomorrow, Democrats are going to bring forward a bill to ensure protections for preexisting conditions that Leader MCCONNELL cannot bury and Republicans can't hide from.

Tomorrow, every single one of us is going to have to go on the record about where we really stand on families' healthcare and protections for preexisting conditions. Tomorrow, we will be voting on Democrats' legislation to reverse a step President Trump took to work a tool that was meant to encourage innovation into one that encourages States to eliminate protections for patients with preexisting conditions, increases costs, undermines essential health benefits, and promotes harmful junk insurance plans that can charge vulnerable patients more and cover less.

Letting President Trump's rule stand could leave millions of patients with higher premiums, higher out-of-pocket costs, and no affordable options to get the healthcare they need.

Our vote tomorrow to reverse this rule that takes protections away from patients and gives power back to insurance companies offers a very clear test about who Senators are actually fighting for. People across the country are going to be watching tomorrow and taking note of who is pushing for solutions to protect their care and who is blocking them, who is trying to repair the damage President Trump has caused and who is trying to cause even more harm, who is fighting for their healthcare and who is fighting against it.

I hope each and every one of my Republican colleagues think long and hard about the promises they have made to their constituents and how they are going to look them in the eye after the vote tomorrow. I hope each of them finally decides to do the right thing and stand up for families' healthcare, even if it means being a Republican who stands up against President Trump.

I believe issues as important as families' healthcare should come before party, and I hope we will see tomorrow that Republicans agree.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

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 insurance 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.

This 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 incredibly 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 truly astronomical amounts, for insurance that will not even cover many of your most basic benefits or you can be denied certain benefits altogether.

If that sounds familiar, it is because it is 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.

If 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 youngest son is living with cerebral palsy, a complex medical condition, and 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.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the Senator knows, Senator SHELBY and I 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 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 shows 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 thought it 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 senior assistant 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.

S. J. RES. 52

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 provides 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 insur-

ance 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 are 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 plan policies 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 the care that people 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 chronic health 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 should be struck down, resulting 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 its way in the courtroom.

If the Department is victorious in its litigation, they will also take away the best tool we have for combating the opioid epidemic—the Medicaid expansion. In New Hampshire, more than 11,000 people have substance use treatment thanks to Medicaid expansion. Access to those services will be gone without the Affordable Care Act. At a time when so many families are struggling with sky-high 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 FDA'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 talk about his commitment to lowering prescription drug prices and the importance of the pathway for biosimilar medications that are basically generic drugs for biologics. Yet this pathway to approve those less costly biosimilar medications would be invalidated if the Affordable Care Act gets struck down.

The stakes are really just too high for us to continue the partisan bickering around the Affordable Care Act. We should be coming together to tell the Justice Department to defend the law of the land. That is why I filed an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill that would prohibit the Justice Department from using Federal funds to argue against the Affordable Care Act in court. That is why we need to support the Congressional Review Act vote that we will have this week, which would ensure that people with preexisting conditions are not going to be cut off of their health insurance when they are tricked into buying junk plans through this administration's deceptive advertising.

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 and 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 could pay for. 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 doctors' 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 Afford-

able 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 can recall happened 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 be just 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 the name of 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 CRA's individual 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 incredible

statement, though true. 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 Presiding Officer is a medical doctor. I know he has devoted 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 die as a result of pregnancy. 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, look into the studies, and tell me 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 the length of time that a new mom 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.

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 graveyard." Senator MCCONNELL says with pride that he will be 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 say: 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. President, I ask 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 I heard there 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, and the 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 populations.

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 the 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 time being 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 began his career in 1964 after graduating from the University of Notre Dame. He subsequently graduated magna cum laude from the University of Louisville School of Law in 1970. He married Nan Milliman, and they made their home in Louisville, KY. They have been married for 48 years.

When I first met Jim, I knew him as one of Kentucky's finest attorneys, who represented Brown & Williamson during the tobacco litigation and the State Republicans in election law matters. I knew him as an accomplished managing partner of the Louisville-based law firm, Middleton Reutlinger. I also knew him as the fiery conservative cohost who often sat opposite Congressman JOHN YARMUTH on WAVE 3 TV's political show "Hot Button." He was known for his spirited debate and for not backing down.

After having over 40 successful years in commercial litigation and receiving numerous awards from his peers, such as being named one of the top 50 attorneys in Kentucky, Jim decided to retire—from the law, at least. In 2010,

right after I was elected to the Senate, I convinced Jim to come out of retirement and be my State director for Kentucky. I am truly grateful that he said yes because, for nearly a decade, Jim has served in that role and has been one of my most trusted advisers.

Anyone who knows Jim knows that he is a force to be reckoned with. He is fiercely loyal, a real problem solver, and a highly accomplished legal mind. Moreover, he is an incredibly kind person who cares deeply about his friends and colleagues. When I ran for President, Jim spearheaded the approval of a caucus for Kentucky so I would not be kept from the ballot for President and the U.S. Senate.

Recently, Jim has decided to transition from the daily State director duties into more of an advisory role. Considering he tried to retire over 10 years ago, I think it is well-deserved. No matter in what capacity, I will always be thankful to have Jim as a part of my team as an ally and an adviser.

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 be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn 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?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of 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 change the world."

Today, this morning, 51 million students woke up and went to a public school in the United States. Each student carried a spark 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 and other communities 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 MOORE 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 like 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 Max Schachter, whose son, Alex, was tragically killed in the Stoneman Douglas 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. Had the glass been stronger or had the window been designed with an obstructed view, Alex might be alive today.

Madam President, fixing design flaws like these are simple matters 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 it doesn't want. 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 dreams or humble ones; 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 up, 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 and I heard 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 eroding protections 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 does something 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, even if you cannot 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 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 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 advocate for policies which make healthcare, 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 \$120,000 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, what 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 allow them to 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 all other things that we 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 costs 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 on a piece of paper, 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 ELIJAH 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 January 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 doctoral degrees 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 14 years, eventually becoming the State legislature's first African-American speaker pro tempore. 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 combating the opioid epidemic, among others. As a respected Congressman, he became a ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the chairman of the House 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 all.

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 discriminatory anti-voting tactics, 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 soul of Nation and selflessly dedicated his life to empowering and uplifting his constituents.

Representative Cummings is survived by his wife, Dr. Maya Rockey Moore 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 "children are 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 their 100th meeting and 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. Todd 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 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 and fiber for their neighbors 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 Wyoming 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 recognize a significant anniversary for the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council. When they meet in a few short weeks, the council will celebrate 75 years of service to Wyoming ecosystems and communities. While the council is partially funded by the State of Wyoming, the council's success lies in dedication of staff, volunteers, seasonal employees, and partners who dedicate themselves to eradicating invasive species and noxious weeds.

Invasive species threaten the delicate balance in nearly every ecosystem. Around the world, invasive species cause billions of dollars in damage to the environment and to economies each year. They threaten watersheds, forests, and grasslands. They crowd out important native species, increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires, introduce disease, and fundamentally undermine the natural cycle of life. Dedicated experts work each day to stem the tide of new introductions.

Each of the 23 counties in Wyoming has a Weed and Pest District, run by

staff and an elected board. The districts set policy, monitor existing infestations, work with the public to develop a comprehensive list of risks, and act quickly when new species are detected. Often, Weed and Pest supervisors wear many hats; depending on the hour, they are grant writers, weed sprayers, staff managers, and policy experts.

Wyoming Weed and Pest coordinator, Slade Franklin, detailed the important work of the council when I invited him to testify before the Environment and Public Works Committee earlier this year. In his testimony, Slade shared the coordination that is required to ensure invasive species are not able to gain an advantage in States where lands are managed by multiple jurisdictions. Slade knows that invasive species do not respect fence lines, and during his decade-long leadership of the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council, he has forged important relationships with local, State, and Federal agencies. His leadership has been integral in many of the State's successes.

It is without hesitation that I say Wyoming's forests and plains would look much different today if the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council had not unified in 1973. While the State has struggled with cheatgrass and Russian olive, they have been hugely successful in preventing new infestations of invasive mussels and limiting spread of other grasses, like *ventenata*. Each municipal water manager, rancher, hiker, forester, hunter, and miner owes a debt of gratitude for the good work of the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council.

Whether they work from horseback, ATV, the air, or a desk, I rise today to honor the dedicated professionals to work to keep our ecosystems healthy. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in thanking them and wishing the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council another 75 years of success.

#### REMEMBERING MORRIS ANDREWS

Ms. BALDWIN. 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 transformation in the way teachers 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 best for 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 20 years later, he left a 62,000-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 commitment to teachers, 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 champion 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 and fights for 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 of 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 a passionate advocate for 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 of-

fice, 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 Governors to appoint a liaison to 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 for Governor 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.

Mr. 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 and research in palliative care 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. 886. An act to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program.

H.R. 1306. 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. 1775. 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 rebate information.

H.R. 1865. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2115. An act to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide greater transparency for discounts provided by manufacturers, to include real-time benefit information as part of a prescription drug plan's electronic prescription program under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2423. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

H.R. 2440. An act to provide for the use of funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for the purposes for which the funds were collected and to ensure that funds credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used to support navigation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2502. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require certain prospectuses for public buildings to be made publicly available, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2514. An act to make reforms to the Federal Bank Secrecy Act and antimoney laundering laws, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2781. An act to amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3942. 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. 4067. 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. 4334. An act to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations 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 and research in palliative care 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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 886. An act to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1306. 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 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1775. An act to establish a task force on NOTAM improvements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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 rebate information; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2115. An act to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide greater transparency for discounts provided by manufacturers, to include real-time benefit information as part of a prescription drug plan's electronic prescription program under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2440. An act to provide for the use of funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for the purposes for which the funds were collected and to ensure that funds credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used to support navigation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

H.R. 2502. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require certain prospectuses for public buildings to be made publicly available, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2514. An act to make reforms to the Federal Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2781. An act to amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4067. 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; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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 5 U.S.C. 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, and 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 "Fenbuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9999-58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3029. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Isotianil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10000-79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mandipropamid; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9999-56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3031. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pendimethalin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10000-06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sulfoxaflor; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9998-88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3033. 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 and Designation of Areas; FL; Redesignation of the Hillsborough County 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide Non-attainment Area to Attainment" (FRL No. 10001-35-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-3034. 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: Lane County, Oregon; 2019 Permitting Rule Revisions" (FRL No. 10001-56-Region 10) 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-3035. 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. 10001-32-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. 10000-88-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-3037. 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-3038. 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; Massachusetts; Transport State Implementation Plans for the 1997 and 2008 Ozone Standards" (FRL No. 10001-37-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-3039. 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; OR: 2018 Permitting Rule Revisions" (FRL No. 10001-52-Region 10) 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-3040. 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 Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 10001-60-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-3041. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (17-4)" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 10000-69)) 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-3042. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Department of Labor's 2018 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3043. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Ethics, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Student Assistance General Provisions, The Secretary's Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, The

Secretary's Recognition Procedures for State Agencies" (RIN1840-AD36 and RIN1840-AD37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 24, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3044. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Single-Sheet Format for U.S. Official Order Form for Schedule I and II Controlled Substances (DEA Form 222)" ((RIN1117-AB44) (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-3045. 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. 1570. A bill to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-155).

S. 2044. A bill 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, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-156).

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.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. James B. Hecker, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Capt. Gregory C. Huffman, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Bruce L. Gillingham, to be Rear Admiral.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. 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. Deedrick, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. James E. Rainey, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Charles A. Richard, to be Admiral.

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 W. 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 Shayla 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.

Air Force nomination of Brandon R. Burden, to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Steven D. Gresswell and ending with Tessa L. Winterton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Air Force nomination of Jason M. Zhao, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Samuel H. Bridges, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Timothy J. Curry and ending with Ryan J. Garlow, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 15, 2019.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brian P. Berlakovich 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. Hirschey, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Michael C. Haith, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Christopher O. Dorsey, to be Major.

Army nomination of Galen Cipperly, to be Major.

Army nomination of Wayne J. Harsha, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Paula A. Boice and ending with Chunae 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. Riggs, to be Major.

Army nomination of Fatima H. Khan, to be Major.

Army nomination of Demetrius E. Walton, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Gregory B. Batdorff and ending with Eric 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. Caspari 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. Chewar, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Erik A. Ernest, 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. Cribbs, 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. Abbitt and ending with Ruben B. Zweiban, 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 Kwadwo S. Agyepong and ending with Shaun E. Williams, 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 Hernan R. Borja and ending with Brian E. Yee, 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. Varvoutis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 19, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Michael Adamski, Jr. 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. MCSALLY, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

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. 2726. 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 warheads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

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 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.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 2732. 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, 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. 133

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 Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 206, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female 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 or serious bodily injury 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 name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor 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) was added as a cosponsor 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 Sergeant at Arms to protect the personal technology devices and accounts of Senators and covered employees from cyber attacks and hostile information collection activities, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator 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. 1007

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, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) 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. KAINE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from New Hampshire

(Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1723

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.

S. 1757

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.

S. 1781

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.

S. 1817

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.

S. 1908

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.

S. 1941

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.

S. 1970

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 concertedly, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 2003

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.

S. 2103

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.

S. 2166

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 Oceanic Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2216

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.

S. 2446

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.

S. 2561

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 enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 2565

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.

S. 2570

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.

S. 2599

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.

S. 2603

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.

S. 2641

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.

S. 2663

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.

S. 2671

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.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names 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.

S. 2691

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.

S.J. RES. 59

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.

S. RES. 73

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.

AMENDMENT NO. 994

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 994 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. 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. 1044

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 (Mrs. 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. 1113

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) 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. 1122

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. 1128

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1128 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.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1133

At the request of Mr. THUNE, 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. 1151

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, 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. 1164

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1164 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 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. 1184

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1184 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. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) 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.

## 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 storages, 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 has 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 declined additional preventive 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 an in-charge 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 \$230 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 ongoing supply 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 lack of adequate domestic capacity and capability for the manufacturing and distribution of certain critical drugs, their active pharmaceutical ingredients—APIs—and associated medical devices used for preparation 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 important bill of the year. It is 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 keep 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 servicemembers and their 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 for 58 years in a 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 is going 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 decide to get 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 will 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 a great job. 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 floor, it passed by 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 will require 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 vote 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 NDAA is also stalling the appropriations process.

When I supported the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, I argued that a lower topline was acceptable if it got us on-time passage of the NDAA 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 needs have changed. We have new 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 new 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, equal number 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 defense 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 Commission report.

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 defense.

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 now 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.

During the last 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 83 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 over 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, and we have haven’t 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 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 enjoyed broad bipartisan support, and that is not an accident. Both parties have compromised to get a bill worthy of our troops and worthy of our troops’ sacrifices.

I hope we get to a place where we can find common ground to give our troops and military a comprehensive bill. That is what we want to continue to do.

We have been working on this bill for a long period of time. Normally, it doesn’t take this long. We 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. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GARDNER, and Ms. CORTEZ 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. PORTMAN) 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. BURR) 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. FEINSTEIN) 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. 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, 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.

SA 1225. Mr. PORTMAN 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 1226. Mr. MARKEY (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. SHELBY 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. SHELBY 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, 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, 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. SHELBY 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. SHELBY 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. SHELBY 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. SHELBY 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. SHELBY 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. SHELBY 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. SHELBY 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. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 3055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1237. Mr. BRAUN 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 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. SHELBY 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. SHELBY 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 by him 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.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**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. 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, insert the following:

#### TITLE —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. 2131(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) in clause (ii), by inserting “or foodservice” after “restaurant”;

(B) in clause (v), by inserting “, such as outdoor recreation or theme parks” before the semicolon at the end; and

(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:

“(vi) 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. 2131(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)(iii) 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. 2131(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 the 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. 2131(f)(1)(A)) publicly available on the website of the Corporation.

##### SEC. 06. ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FEE INCREASE.

Section 217(h)(3)(B)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(h)(3)(B)(i)(I)) is amended by striking “\$10” and inserting “\$17”.

**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, 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 of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be used for a 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. 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 311, line 2, insert “*Provided further*, That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief of the Forest Service shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report detailing 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. 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) There is appropriated \$600,000 to carry out section 6306 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204b-3).

(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 CHIEF 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. 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 this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading "SALARIES AND EXPENSES" 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, testing, prevention, and research relating to Eastern equine encephalitis in impacted States.

(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 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER" shall be reduced by \$1,000,000.

**SA 1218.** Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BURR) 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 \_\_\_\_\_. 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 under the Market Facilitation Program conducted pursuant to that section.

**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 237, line 7, insert "": *Provided further*, That the Service shall issue guidance to field offices for streamlining consultations under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) relating to Federal actions that authorize, fund, or carry out an activity that is covered by an approved Habitat Conservation Plan, is permitted under section 10(a)(1)(B) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)(B)), and affects a species that is listed as a threatened or endangered species under that Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and covered by the approved Habitat Conservation Plan" before the period at the end.

**SA 1220.** Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) 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 of the funds appropriated herein, not less than \$3,700,000 shall be made available for the Women's History Initiative."

**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, 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 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall use funds appropriated under this heading to publish 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 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, is not published as required under section 515 of Public Law 115-254."

**SA 1223.** Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. 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:

SEC. 7 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) There is appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided under the heading "AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES" under the heading "AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS" in title I shall be reduced by \$6,000,000.

**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 223, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

SEC. 7 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) There is appropriated \$2,000,000 to carry out section 30 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036d).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided under the heading "AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES" under the heading "AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS" in title I shall be reduced by \$2,000,000.

**SA 1225.** Mr. PORTMAN 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 458, line 18, insert "the family unification program under section 8(x) of the Act," after "the Act,".

**SA 1226.** Mr. MARKEY (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. 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 C, insert the following:

OIL AND GAS PROGRAM LEASE SALE REQUIREMENT

SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_\_.

None of the funds made available to the Secretary of the Interior by this or any other Act may be used to conduct a lease sale pursuant to section 20001(c)(1) of Public Law 115-97 (16 U.S.C. 3143 note) that does not contain a national minimum acceptable bid amount sufficient to produce Federal receipts to the Treasury, net of any State share, of not less than an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount required by section 2001(b) of H. Con. Res. 71, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, as agreed to on October 26, 2017.

**SA 1227.** Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) 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 C, insert the following:

SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_\_. **GAO STUDY ON OUTDOOR RECREATION.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:  
 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term "covered agency" means—  
 (A) the Department of Agriculture;  
 (B) the Department of the Interior;  
 (C) the Corps of Engineers;  
 (D) the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

(E) the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) **OUTDOOR RECREATION.**—The term “outdoor recreation” means all recreational activities undertaken for pleasure that—

(A) generally involve some level of intentional physical exertion; and

(B) occur in nature-based environments outdoors.

(b) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that—

(1) identifies each program carried out by a covered agency that directly impacts the outdoor recreation sector, including each program that affects the management and conservation of, and access to, the land, waters, and natural resources of the United States; and

(2) describes, for each program identified under paragraph (1), the spending level for that program during each of the 20 fiscal years preceding the year in which the report is submitted.

(c) **REQUIRED COORDINATION.**—In conducting the study under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall coordinate with the outdoor recreation industry, nongovernmental organizations, the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce, and other interested stakeholders.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subsection (b).

**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 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) 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 108-449, 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 115-31, 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 section as the “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 shall advertise to current borrowers the process and opportunity by which a borrower may, pursuant to section 331A(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 366 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008a), the Secretary may consider a good faith claim of a borrower of misunderstanding due to ambiguous or unclear guidance or a change in normal procedure to be reliance on the advice of the Secretary under subsection (b)(2) of that section.

(d) The amounts made available under this section are designated by Congress as being for emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

**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.

**SEC. 3. BACK COMPENSATION FOR LOW-WAGE EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Federal agency subject to the lapse in appropriations that began on or about December 22, 2018, shall adjust the price of any contract of such agency for which the contractor was ordered to suspend, delay, or interrupt all or part of the work of such contract, or stop all or any part of the work called for in such contract, as a result of the lapse in appropriations to compensate the contractor for reasonable costs incurred—

(1) to provide compensation, at an employee’s standard rate of compensation, to any employee who was furloughed or laid off, or who was not working, who experienced a reduction of hours, or who experienced a reduction in compensation, as a result of the lapse in appropriations (for the period of the lapse); or

(2) to restore paid leave taken by any employee during the lapse in appropriations, if the contractor required employees to use paid leave as a result of the lapse in appropriations.

(b) **LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF WEEKLY COMPENSATION COVERED BY ADJUSTMENT.**—The maximum amount of weekly compensation of an employee for which an adjustment may be made under subsection (a) may not exceed the lesser of—

(1) the employee’s actual weekly compensation; or

(2) \$965.

(c) **TIMING OF ADJUSTMENTS.**—The adjustments required by subsection (a) shall be made as soon as practicable after the enactment of this Act.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “compensation” has the meaning given that term in section 6701 of title 41, United States Code.

(2) The term “employee” means the following:

(A) A “service employee” as that term is defined in section 6701(3) of title 41, United States Code, except that the term also includes service employees described in subparagraph (C) of that section notwithstanding that subparagraph.

(B) A “laborer or mechanic” covered by section 3142 of title 40, United States Code.

**SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This division shall take effect upon the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

(a) **CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act; and

(2) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

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

**SA 1231.** 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 in title IV of division C, insert the following:

PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES FOR 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. . (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 625(c)(1) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(E) an organization representing aircraft users, aircraft owners, or aircraft pilots.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254).

**SA 1233.** Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. BROWN) 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 53, line 12, strike “initiatives;” and insert “initiatives: *Provided*, That not more than 2 percent of any grant awarded using funds made available under this paragraph may be used by a State administrative agency for administrative costs;”.

**SA 1234.** Ms. MCSALLY (for herself 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:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney

General shall submit a report to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate detailing the efforts of the Department of Justice to combat and enforce animal fighting and animal welfare statutes, which shall include—

(1) a break down of the number of personnel dedicated to animal welfare crimes on a full-time basis, including their respective departmental component;

(2) a list of all cases involving animal welfare crimes that the Department of Justice has prosecuted since 2014;

(3) a list of investigations that were referred to the Department of Justice that have been delayed or declined to be prosecuted by the Department of Justice and the reason for any deferral or declination; and

(4) a qualitative description of how the Department of Justice coordinates the efforts of the Department with other governmental partners to ensure proper enforcement of animal welfare laws.

**SA 1235.** Mr. PORTMAN 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 paragraph (2) under the heading “TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE” under the heading “PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING” in title II of division D, insert the following: “the family unification program under section 8(x) of the Act.”

**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. 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 A, insert the following:

SEC. . None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to enforce the safeguard measure imposed under section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2253) with respect to bifacial solar modules pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 9693, issued on January 23, 2018 (83 Federal Register 3541).

**SA 1237.** Mr. BRAUN 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, add the following:

**SEC. 90. REPORT ON MAINTAINING FEDERAL LAND HOLDINGS.**

Not later than 120 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress the budget of the United States for fiscal year 2020, the President shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(1) all Federal land holdings; and  
(2) the total cost of maintaining the Federal land holdings described under paragraph

(1) for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2019, including an accounting of holdings and expenditures by each Federal agency with respect to the land holdings.

**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. 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, insert the following:

**SEC. . AMERICAN MINERS ACT OF 2019.**

(a) TRANSFERS TO 1974 UMWA PENSION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (i) of section 402 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “\$490,000,000” 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) CESSATION 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 432(j)(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 is receiving transfers under subparagraph (A), no amendment of such plan which increases the liabilities of the plan by reason of any increase in benefits, any change in the accrual of 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 WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY UNDER ERISA.—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 CONTRIBUTION RATE.—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 the transfer are obligated to make the contributions at rates that are no less than those in effect on the date which is 30 days

before the date of enactment of the Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020.

“(F) ENHANCED ANNUAL REPORTING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—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, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020, the trustees of the 1974 UMW 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(j)(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 percentage;

“(III) the market value of the assets of the plan as of the last day of the plan year preceding 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 projections 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 preceding such plan year;

“(IX) any significant reduction in the number 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 withdrawal liability to the plan during the plan year preceding such plan year and, for each employer, a total assessment of the withdrawal liability paid, the annual payment amount, and the number of years remaining in the payment schedule with respect to such withdrawal liability;

“(XII) any material changes to benefits, accrual rates, or contribution rates during the plan year preceding such plan year;

“(XIII) any scheduled benefit 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 plan under section 101(f) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974;

“(XVII) the information contained on the most recent Department of Labor Form 5500 of the plan; and

“(XVIII) copies of the plan document and amendments, other retirement benefit or ancillary benefit plans relating to the plan and contribution obligations under such plans, a breakdown of administrative expenses of the plan, participant census data and distribution of benefits, the most recent actuarial valuation report as of the plan year, copies of collective bargaining agreements, and financial reports, and such other information as the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, may require.

“(ii) ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION.—The report required under clause (i) shall be submitted electronically.

“(iii) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate shall share the information in the report under clause (i) with the Secretary of Labor.

“(iv) PENALTY.—Any failure to file the report required under clause (i) on or before the date described in such clause shall be treated as a failure to file a report required to be filed under section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, except that section 6652(e) 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 UMW PENSION PLAN DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘1974 UMW Pension Plan’ has the meaning given the term in section 9701(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, but without regard to the limitation on participation to individuals who retired in 1976 and thereafter.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2016.

(B) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 402(i)(4)(F) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(i)(4)(F)), as added by this subsection, shall apply to plan years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) INCLUSION IN MULTIEMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.—Section 402(h)(2)(C) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(h)(2)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking “the Health Benefits for Miners Act of 2017” both places it appears in clause (ii) and inserting “the Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020”;

(2) by striking “, would be denied or reduced as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding commenced in 2012 or 2015” in clause (ii)(II) and inserting “or a related coal wage agreement, would be denied or reduced as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding commenced in 2012, 2015, 2018, or 2019”;

(3) by striking “the date of the enactment of the Health Benefits for Miners Act of

2017” each place it appears in clause (ii) and inserting “the date of the enactment of the Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020”;

(4) by striking “January 1, 2017” in clause (ii) and inserting “January 1, 2019”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(vi) RELATED COAL WAGE AGREEMENT.—For purposes of clause (ii), the term ‘related coal wage agreement’ means an agreement between the United Mine Workers of America and an employer in the bituminous coal industry that—

“(I) is a signatory operator; or

“(II) is or was a debtor in a bankruptcy proceeding that was consolidated, administratively or otherwise, with the bankruptcy proceeding of a signatory operator or a related person to a signatory operator (as those terms are defined in section 9701(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).”

(c) REDUCTION IN MINIMUM AGE FOR ALLOWABLE IN-SERVICE DISTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(a)(36) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “age 62” and inserting “age 59½”.

(2) APPLICATION TO GOVERNMENTAL SECTION 457(b) PLANS.—Clause (i) of section 457(d)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “(in the case of a plan maintained by an employer described in subsection (e)(1)(A), age 59½)” before the comma at the end.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2019.

(d) BLACK LUNG LIABILITY TRUST FUND EXCISE TAX.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4121(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking “after the temporary increase termination date” in paragraph (1) and inserting “during any temporary increase inapplicable period”, and

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) TEMPORARY INCREASE INAPPLICABLE PERIOD.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘temporary increase inapplicable period’ means—

“(A) the period beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on December 31, 2019, and

“(B) the period beginning on the earlier of—

“(i) January 1, 2029, or

“(ii) the first January 1 after 2007 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 advances.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to sales after December 31, 2019.

**SA 1239.** Mr. ROMNEY 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. \_\_\_\_ (a) Section 907(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387g(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 the Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020, an electronic nicotine delivery system or any of its components or parts (including e-liquid) shall not contain, as a constituent (including a smoke constituent) or additive, an artificial or natural flavor (other than tobacco) or an herb or spice, including strawberry, grape, orange, clove, cinnamon, pineapple, vanilla, coconut, licorice, cocoa, chocolate, cherry, coffee, menthol, or mint that is a characterizing flavor of the electronic nicotine delivery system or e-liquid. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit the Secretary’s authority to take action under this section or other sections of this Act applicable to any artificial or natural flavor, herb, or spice not specified in this subparagraph.”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEM STANDARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations setting forth standards on the permissible design of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and issue guidance for manufacturers to implement such standards. Such standards, at a minimum, shall—

“(A) prohibit refillable components or parts;

“(B) prohibit any electronic nicotine delivery system designed to look like combustible cigarettes or commonplace, nonmedical devices, such as pens or USB flash drives; 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

(B) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘electronic nicotine delivery system’—

“(i) means noncombustible tobacco products, including vapes, vaporizers, vape pens, hookah pens, electronic cigarettes (also known as ‘e-cigarettes’ or ‘e-cigs’), and e-pipes that deliver an aerosolized e-liquid that may contain nicotine, as well as varying compositions of flavorings, 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 liquid nicotine combined with colorings, 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 9(1) of the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 (15 U.S.C. 4408(1)) is amended by striking “section 900(18)” and inserting “section 900(20)”.

SEC. \_\_\_\_ (a) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), in consultation with 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 determines appropriate, 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 products;

(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 (as 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 2021 through 2024, 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 5701(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 during the previous fiscal year; or

(2) \$115,000,000.

SEC. \_\_\_\_ (a) Section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i), and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY.—

“(1) ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On electronic nicotine delivery systems (as defined in section 900(8) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387(8))), manufactured in or imported into the United States, there shall be imposed a tax equal to \$1.01 per electronic nicotine delivery system.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—This paragraph shall not apply to any single-use electronic nicotine delivery system.

“(2) E-LIQUID.—On e-liquids (as defined in section 900(9) of such Act) or single-use electronic nicotine delivery systems, manufactured in or imported into the United States, there shall be imposed a tax equal to—

“(A) in the case of a product which contains less than 5 percent nicotine by volume, \$1.01, and

“(B) in the case of the product which contains a percentage of nicotine by volume which is equal to or greater than 5 percent, an amount equal to the sum of—

“(i) \$1.01, plus,

“(ii) for each percentage point of nicotine by volume contained in such product which

is in excess of 5 percent, 20.2 cents (and a proportionate amount at the like rate on any such percentage which is not a whole number).”.

(b) Section 5702 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”, and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “or roll-your-own tobacco” each place it appears and inserting “roll-your-own tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems, and e-liquids”.

(c) The amendments made by this section shall apply to articles removed after the date which is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. \_\_\_\_ (a) Any person who—

(1) on the date of the enactment of this Act, is engaged in business as a manufacturer of electronic nicotine delivery systems or e-liquids, and

(2) before the applicable date, submits an application under subchapter B of chapter 52 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to engage in such business,

may, notwithstanding such subchapter B, continue to engage in such business pending final action on such application. Pending such final action, all provisions of chapter 52 of such Code shall apply to such applicant in the same manner and to the same extent as if such applicant were a holder of a permit to manufacture electronic nicotine delivery systems or e-liquids under such chapter 52.

(b)(1) On electronic nicotine delivery systems or e-liquids manufactured in or imported into the United States which are removed before the applicable date and held on such date for sale by any person, there is hereby imposed a tax in an amount equal to the tax which would be imposed under section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on the article if the article had been removed on such applicable date.

(2)(A) A person holding electronic nicotine delivery systems or e-liquids on the applicable date to which any tax imposed by paragraph (1) applies shall be liable for such tax.

(B) The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulations.

(C) The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid on or before the date that is 120 days after the applicable date.

(3) Notwithstanding the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the Foreign Trade Zone Act, 48 Stat. 998, 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 be subject to the tax imposed by paragraph (1) if—

(A) 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

(B) such article is held on such date under the supervision of an officer of the United States Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the 2d proviso of such section 3(a).

(4) Rules similar to the rules of section 5061(e)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(5) 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 and not 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 may treat any person who bore the ultimate burden of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) as the person

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 day after the date which is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(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 efforts with respect to 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 AND CHILD HEALTH PROJECTS.**

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 is 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 the projects described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 501(a)(3).”

**SEC. 3. MEDICAID DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MATERNAL HEALTH CARE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS.**

Section 1903 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 UNDERSERVED AREAS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the payments provided under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide for payments to States for State activities to improve access to maternal health care and prevent maternal mortality in underserved 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 for such payments in a form, manner, and time specified by the Secretary.

“(B) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Such payments are made 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.—No payment shall be made under this subsection after fiscal year 2024.

“(5) FUNDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), State expenditures on activities under this subsection shall be treated as medical assistance for purposes of subsection (a).

“(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 1905(y) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(y)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “subject to paragraph (3),” after “Notwithstanding subsection (b),”; and

(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 subclause (VIII) of section 1902(a)(10)(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 amounts expended for such 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 Com-

mittee 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 for 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.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 367) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 21, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**TAIWAN ALLIES INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION 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 96-8) 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 it is the policy of the United States "to maintain 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 system, of the people on Taiwan".

(3) Taiwan is a free, democratic, and prosperous nation of 23,000,000 people and an important contributor to peace and stability around the world.

(4) 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 its efforts to pressure Taiwan.

(5) 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.

(6) Taiwan currently maintains full diplomatic relations with 15 nations around the world.

(7) Taiwan's unofficial relations with the United States, Australia, India, Japan, 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 severance 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.

(9) The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409) states that—

(A) it is United States policy "to support the close economic, political, and security relationship between Taiwan and the United States"; and

(B) the President should—  
(i) "conduct regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan that are tailored to meet the existing and likely future threats from the People's Republic of China, including supporting the efforts of Taiwan to develop and integrate asymmetric capabilities, as appropriate, including mobile, survivable, and cost-effective capabilities, into its military forces"; and

(ii) "encourage the travel of high-level United States officials to Taiwan, in accordance with the Taiwan Travel Act".

**SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING OF OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL TIES WITH TAIWAN.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Government should—

(1) support Taiwan in strengthening its official diplomatic relationships as well as unofficial

partnerships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world;

(2) consider, in certain cases as appropriate and in alignment with United States interests, increasing its economic, security, and diplomatic engagement with nations that have demonstrably strengthened, enhanced, or upgraded relations with Taiwan; and

(3) consider, in certain cases as appropriate and in alignment with United States interests, reducing its economic, security, and diplomatic engagement with nations that take serious or significant actions to undermine Taiwan.

(b) CONSULTATION.—Not less than 30 days before increasing or decreasing the United States Government's economic, security, or diplomatic engagement with another nation as a result of an action taken by that nation to either strengthen or undermine ties with Taiwan, the Secretary of State shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees with respect to the proposed United States action or actions.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede or otherwise alter obligations to comply with the notification procedures applicable to reprogramming pursuant to section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394-1).

**SEC. 4. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES WITH REGARD TO TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

It should be the policy of the United States—

(1) to advocate, as appropriate—  
(A) for Taiwan's membership in all international organizations in which statehood is not a requirement and in which the United States is also a participant; and

(B) for Taiwan to be granted observer status in other appropriate international organizations;

(2) to instruct, as appropriate, representatives of the United States Government in all organizations described in paragraph (1) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to advocate for Taiwan's membership or observer status in such organizations; and

(3) for the President or the President's designees to advocate, as appropriate, for Taiwan's membership or observer status in all organizations described in paragraph (1) as part of any relevant bilateral engagements between the United States and the People's Republic of China, including leader summits and the U.S.-China Comprehensive Economic Dialogue.

**SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH TAIWAN.**

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should engage in bilateral trade negotiations with Taiwan, with the goal of entering into a free trade agreement that is of mutual economic benefit and that protects United States workers and benefits United States exporters.

**SEC. 6. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**

In this Act, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

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 granted each other formal recognition on March 31, 1854, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity, and established full diplomatic relations in 1858;

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 deeply committed to the common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and free market economics;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance, forged nearly six decades ago with the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, is the cornerstone for advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and contributes internationally to peace and stability;

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; and

Whereas cultural and people-to-people ties between the United States and Japan are longstanding and deep, as exemplified by the 1912 gift from the People of Japan to the People of the United States of the beautiful cherry trees that grace our Nation's capital, signifying the unbreakable bond between the two nations: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the endorsement of longstanding United States policy to pursue close and cooperative ties 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 Reiwa 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. 234, S. Res. 236.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (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.

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 know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 236) was agreed to.

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 5, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**REMEMBERING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE ISRAELITE MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA) JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, AND RECOMMITTING TO EFFORTS TO UPHOLD JUSTICE FOR THE 85 VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS**

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 bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 277) remembering the 25th Anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the 85 victims of the attacks.

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 com-

mands 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 right now that 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 measure of 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 going 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.

The patient protection part of 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 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 numbers 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 Bureau had 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 425,000."

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 to settle 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 have healthcare coverage—shouldn't be involved in any government and shouldn't run for public office if that is what your attitude is. Ei-

ther you don't care about that or you think that is actually a measure of progress.

We have some work to do in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives and in the administration to make sure that when they measure this again later in 2019 or in 2020, that number is coming down, that we are reducing the uninsured, and that we are reducing the number of children who are uninsured.

It is going to be difficult to do that and to make progress on that when you consider what the administration, supported by Republicans in the House and the Senate, have done lately. They have done three things that are setting us backward.

One is supporting a lawsuit in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which will destroy the Affordable Care Act. It will destroy it. We should be arguing against that lawsuit. It is highly likely, or at least likely, I will say—I don't want to be that pessimistic—that that lawsuit will prevail and the Affordable Care Act will be wiped away and declared unconstitutional by the circuit court or maybe by the Supreme Court down the road if the Supreme Court were to take that case up on appeal.

That is not good for America for lots of reasons. All those Americans—more than 130 million—who have a pre-existing condition will be out of luck if that lawsuit prevails. The protections for preexisting conditions will be taken away after having been granted for the first time, basically, a decade ago, to tens and tens of millions of Americans. A lot of other adverse consequences come from that lawsuit succeeding, so every Member of the Senate should be against that lawsuit.

Now, some say: Well, we have a better idea. Well, come forward with your better idea and figure out a way, if you can, to provide coverage for 20 million people, to provide protections for those who have a preexisting condition—provide the same protections in a different way, if you can, but don't say to the country that we are supporting a lawsuit that will take all those protections away when you don't have anything to replace it with, you have nothing that has been enacted into law or nothing that has been proposed that will be commensurate with the coverage gains and protections of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. We can be weeks away from that lawsuit succeeding. That is problem No. 1—threat No. 1, I call it.

Threat No. 2 are the proposed cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. 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 families afford long-term nursing 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? They want to cut it by \$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 by the phrase "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 said: "It's got all the protections of the Affordable Care Act." But, of course, it didn't, and he was deceived.

There are a lot of stories of people being deceived by false advertising and by misleading advertising. Even if going to a page after having done a search and on that page it might say "healthcare.gov," which is the right place to go if you want to enroll, but sometimes, healthcare.gov has nothing to do with it. It is advertised as what healthcare.gov offers, but it doesn't offer that. It offers a junk plan, and people are in real trouble when they sign up for the wrong plan.

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 to 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 if you only have 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 never meant 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 is 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 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, you should type www.HealthCare.Gov. That is 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 the other, 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 saw a golden 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 but often to have a subsidy 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 2 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 Fewer Children. Baby Elijah was one of them."

The subheadline says "Officials point to rising unemployment, but the unin-

sured rate is climbing as families run afoul 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 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. So 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.

Lo 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 a child 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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at 10 a.m.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY PROCEDURES IN THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

**HON. JAMES P. 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 of 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, and in the case of a witness precisely and in detail what it is expected the testimony of the witness would be, if called. On the basis of such requests and summaries and 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 summaries 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) 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 confer 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. The chair, in consultation with the ranking minority member, shall make a public announcement of the date, time, place and subject matter of any Committee hearing or meeting to consider matters set forth in these procedures as soon as practicable and in no event less than twenty-four hours before the commencement of the hearing or meeting, except as specified in paragraph B(3) and notwithstanding Rule II of the Committee on the Judiciary Rules of Procedure.

F. Should the President unlawfully refuse to make witnesses available for testimony to, or to produce documents requested by, the investigative committees listed in the first section of H. Res. 660 in furtherance of the investigations described in the first sec-

tion of H. Res. 660, the chair 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.

G. 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 upkeeping 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

**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 William Carl

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

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

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 Ordeal 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 garnered 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 1968, 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, Elana, 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 received his undergraduate degree and played football, lacrosse, and baseball. For nearly 40 years, Edward Moses has served with distinction on the Christian Broth-

ers 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 devoted 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 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.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

Sixty-eight women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments at the Convention in July 1848.

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 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, enfranchising 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 chose.

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 RENAMING 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 event 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 financially sustainable 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, 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 Ordeal 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 unavoidably detained on October 22, 2019 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, Carolyn B. Maloney of New York Part B Amendment No. 4. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.” 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 the retirement of someone who has spent his career bringing news and information to thousands of people.

Mr. James Lesley (Les) Walters was born to James and Lottie Walters in April of 1956 in Andalusia, Alabama. He was the valedictorian of his 1974 graduating class at Red Level High School. After high school, Waters went on to attend college at Troy state University. Upon graduation in 1978, he was named the

Hall School of Journalism and Communication’s Outstanding Graduate of the Year.

In 1979, the Itawamba County Times in Fulton, Mississippi hired Walters as a news writer. Later that same year, he accepted a job in Hamilton, Alabama at a brand newspaper called the Hamilton Progress.

In 1987, Walters left the Hamilton Progress 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 named Kiwanis Citizen of the Year and has served as the Hamilton CJ’s president, where he was a longtime 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 Gilliland, 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. RODNEY 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

**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 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 Viet-

nam 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 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 remains an inspiration to our nation. To the families of our servicemembers who stood by faithfully as your loved ones departed to defend our freedoms 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:

Michael H. Eastman, Richard C. Dellerba, Richard Kimball Smith, David Paquette, William Allan Stashluk, Paul B. Dullea, Ronald Stephen Clark, William Warren Walker, Robert E. Thebodo, Robert Arnold Edstrom.

James William Dryer, George A. Travers, Charles Machado, Carl Daniel Fredrickson, Jr., Ronald J. Cote, Michael L. Gray, David Lawrence Nelson, Jr., Robert Francis Stanley, Rodney A. Stanley, William Joseph Brodeur.

David Eugene Norton, Raymond Paul Boudreau, Guy A. Tremblay, William F. Chapman, Charles Michael Sirosky, Steven F. Cady, Eric Frederick Parthum, Lowell Bohnert, James E. Neister, John Vincent Madden.

Louis Maurice Belanger, Joseph Vincent Cannava, Norman Wayne Blake, Andrew J. LaCourse, John Francis DiBernardo, John Johansen, Thomas R. Sawyer, Lawrence Wayne Barchard, Harold Francis Shea, Jr., Richard L. Lavoie.

Alfred Anthony Monterio, Joseph Frank Cannata, Donald J. Burns, George R. Hall, Roger John Hubert, Phillip J. Miller, Richard Stewart Tatem, Lloyd H. Hamilton, Clyde Francis Bubar, Walter Gerald Cibulski, Jr.

Michael Joseph Golden, William Thomas McClellan III, Edmund J. Gleason, Louis R. Hagan, Ronald Paul Morrissey, Joseph K. Ireland, Gerald Joseph Bushway, Henry Stephen Masciocchi, Robert A. Duncan, Sr., Kathleen McLeod Duncan.

Thomas W.R. Thibault, Sr., James Edward Miles, Arthur John Demeis, Bruce Edward Richardson, Francis Joseph Cuddy, Jr., Susan Ann Cuddy, Robert William Perry, Sr., Wilfred Clinton Gonyo, Margaret Lee Clarke, Edward E. Rochford.

DIGNITY IN AGING ACT OF 2019

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. 4334, the "Dignity in Aging Act of 2019."

H.R. 4334 reauthorizes the Older Americans Act (OAA), which authorizes funds to state and local programs to ensure aging seniors have access to food, transportation, and other basic services they need to live independently and with dignity.

The number of Americans over age 65 is expected to reach 70 million by 2030, representing a 71 percent increase from today's 41 million older adults.

Elder and long-term care is rapidly becoming one of the most daunting healthcare challenges of our day.

By 2050, the global population of people older than 60 is expected to jump to two billion.

In the United States, the number of Americans over the age of 65 is expected to double from roughly 50 million today to nearly 100 million by 2060.

While the United States is currently ranked among the top countries in the world for the elderly, there are significant variations across the country in access to healthcare and quality of life.

On average, the older adult population spends \$18,424 annually per person, with more than one-third of those expenditures occurring after the age of 85.

The Medicaid program accounted for more than 40 percent of overall U.S. nursing home costs in 2012, and 65 percent of these costs in graying states like Pennsylvania.

Together with Medicare, these programs comprise more than 31 percent of all U.S. health expenditures.

An aging America will experience increasingly severe and complex health conditions.

Almost half of the U.S. population is expected to have at least one chronic disease by 2020.

The number of aging individuals with three or more chronic conditions has also increased significantly within the last ten years, and this is expected to grow to 40 percent among the 65 and over population by 2030.

By 2050, the number of Americans needing long-term services and supports (LTSS) will more than double to 27 million.

Our approach to caring for the aging is fiscally unsustainable for taxpayers and consumers alike.

Absent changes to a fragmented system of care delivery which rewards high-cost rather than high-quality care, the burden of healthcare spending for the aging population will soon become unsustainable for taxpayer-funded programs like Medicare and Medicaid, as well as individual consumers paying out-of-pocket.

Between 2015 and 2025, annual Medicare spending is projected to double to \$1.2 trillion dollars.

The median annual out-of-pocket costs for Americans age 65 will rise to \$6,200, nearly double what it was in 2010.

Unless policymakers act now, aging Americans and their loved ones will soon experience unsustainably high costs for healthcare

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. COLLIN 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 Min-

neapolis-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

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 Colten Michael Pickeral. Colten 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 87, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colten has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many 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 Cameron Aquatic Center in Cameron, Missouri.

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 wor-

ship 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 flock at 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 drawn 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 in 1954 and served three more years in the Army Reserves.

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., Holiday 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 fight 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 Breese Mater Dei High School boys' golf team, which recently brought home the Illinois Class 1A state championship.

It was a very closely contested 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 Litteken.

Madam 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 dur-

ing 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. 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. 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 Recommend 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 YEA on Roll Call No. 584.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF  
MINOCK-WHITLOCK PARK

**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 space 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 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.

Special commendations are extended 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,

fundraisers, senior callers and visitors, literacy instructors, office assistance, and as outreach speakers and presenters.

I am proud of the tireless work Hunterdon Helpline does for the people of New Jersey's 7th Congressional District.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST INTERNET MESSAGE

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 29, 2019*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to mark the 50th anniversary of the first message sent over the early internet and the important role played by the University of California, Los Angeles.

On this day in 1969, the team working on the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network, or ARPANET, led by Professor Leonard Kleinrock, attempted to send a login command to the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, California. After sending and confirming receipt of the first two letters, "l" and "o", the attempt to send a "g" crashed Stanford's computer.

And so, the first message sent over a computer network turned out to be unintentionally meaningful: "LO" as in "Lo and behold." As Kleinrock said, "We didn't plan it, but we couldn't have come up with a better message: short and prophetic."

Kleinrock developed the mathematical theory that would facilitate packet switching as a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The ability of a network to transmit signals in discrete bundles of information instead of through a single burst underpinned much of the way the world communicates today. One erratic connection from one end of California to the other gave way to trillions of bytes of data flowing around the world every second.

As one of four Members of Congress who majored in computer science, I would like to recognize the contributions of Dr. Kleinrock and the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering for laying the foundations for information sharing and communication in the 21st century and the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 29, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, regrettably, I was unable to attend the vote series for October 28, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 585, H.R. 2440 Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act, and YEA on Roll Call No. 586, H.R. 2115 Public Disclosure of Drug Discounts Act.

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 congregation quickly turned their focus to providing schooling for children. Throughout changes in leadership and building changes, 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 cosponsor of this legislation, I believe it would create critical safeguards to protect our elections. I would also have voted in favor of H.R. 777, which would 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.

HONORING MR. EGON J. SALMON

**HON. MAX ROSE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 29, 2019*

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of Egon J. Salmon, a veteran of World War II, on the 80th anniversary of his first attempt to flee Nazi Germany to the United States.

Egon J. Salmon was born on June 4, 1924, in Rheydt, Germany, near the borders of Holland and Belgium. When Egon was nine years old, Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, leading Egon to face mounting anti-Semitism throughout his schooling, particularly with the passage of the 1935 Nuremberg Laws. On Nov. 9, 1938, Egon was an eyewitness to Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, when more than 250 synagogues in Germany were destroyed.

Egon's father Paul, who fought in the cavalry for the Kaiser in World War I and owned a major textile firm, was rounded up and arrested along with 30,000 Jewish men. He was taken by the Nazi SS to Dachau, the first Nazi concentration camp, and was released four weeks later on the condition that he immediately leave Germany. Paul entered the United States on a visitor's visa but was placed on a waiting list for a permanent visa. He then left for Cuba to await the arrival of his wife and two children in hopes of returning to the United States.

While Paul waited in Cuba for the family's U.S. quota number to be called, Egon, his mother Erna and 9-year-old sister, Edith, booked passage on the SS *St. Louis* to Havana on May 13, 1939. They were not permitted to disembark and on June 4th, Egon spent his 15th birthday watching the lights of Miami while the ship was sent back to Nazi Germany. No country, including the United States, would accept the Jewish refugees. They were finally given haven in Brussels,

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 the import-export 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 to operate to this day. 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 first Holocaust Center and to remind those of all faiths in his beloved borough to "Never Forget."

The story of Egon Salmon and his family is the epitome of the American dream. He fled persecution in search of a better life and sacrificed for his new home in the United States Army. He gave back to his community by starting a business and creating jobs, and his family continues to serve our community to this day. So Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in commending Egon Salmon and his family and thank them for their heroism and service to the United States.

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 and sincerity 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 Building 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—that people 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 Shouldice, Ana Maria Bowie, Rosa Martha Perez Elizalde, Meguila Sesante Alvarez, Damilare Mustapha Jimoh, Felipe Briseno, Ivonett Alejandra Suarez, Alfredo H. Luna, Zarish Raza, Elena Alexandrovna Burtseva, Ivonne Cecilia Rocha, Connor MacDonald McCoy, Elena Ancevski, Francine Ingabire, Ahmad Haisam Zazour, Alexander Donghui Lee, Maria Asuncion Mansilla, Nyamar Chan Nhal, Arnulfo Loera, Vincent Balinda, Zulema Lisette Lee, Paul Edward Nyongani, Robenson Petit Bien, and Payal Dilipbhai Patel.

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 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, commencing the service of the Chamber of Commerce. In the past century, the chamber has expanded its reach to serve the entirety of Adams County.

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-

tives, and I congratulate the leaders and members of the chamber upon this outstanding achievement.

EDUCATING MEDICAL PROFES-  
SIONALS AND OPTIMIZING  
WORKFORCE EFFICIENCY AND  
READINESS FOR HEALTH ACT OF  
2019

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. 2781, the "EMPOWER for Health Act of 2019."

H.R. 2781 reauthorizes funding at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for health professions workforce, education, and training programs.

This legislation expands efforts to increase diversity, improve geriatrics education and training, and grow the pediatric health care workforce.

The legislation also creates a new authorization of \$5 million to increase workforce diversity in the professions of physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology, and speech-language pathology.

By 2032, the United States may face a shortage of over 100,000 physicians; if health care access were equitable across race, health insurance coverage, and geographic location, we would require almost 100,000 more physicians today.

Groups such as the National Black Nurses Association have been advocating for a more diverse workforce to ensure access to the highest quality of healthcare for persons of color.

The Kinder Institute at Rice University in Houston has determined that the greater Houston area is becoming increasingly diverse.

The Kinder Institute noted that in 2010, the Houston metropolitan area became the nation's most racially/ethnically diverse large metropolitan area in the nation.

While the largest growth has been among Latinos, other racial/ethnic groups in the metropolitan region have also either increased or remained the same.

This growth and expanding racial/ethnic diversity can bring social, economic and health system challenges that exacerbate disparities.

Efforts to increase diversity in the work force will lead to more respect and understanding, more creativity and innovation, less of a language barrier and social challenges, and an overall better patient outcome and satisfaction.

This act will ensure that patients in Harris County and around the country have access to skilled physicians and medical professionals—regardless of where they live.

By reauthorizing key Title VII funding, it will increase access to physicians and other providers in underserved areas, and promote training opportunities for physicians to maintain and improve their skills.

I applaud Rep. SCHAKOWSKY for introducing this legislation to help to better support the health of the citizens of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2781 to amend title

VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes.

RECOGNIZING DR. MATTHEW C. WINKLEMAN OF HARRISBURG, IL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 29, 2019*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Matthew C. Winkleman of Harrisburg, Illinois for having been honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Winkleman received this prestigious award because of his long-standing dedication to providing outstanding primary care. Dr. Winkleman's focus on expanding access to health care to Southern Illinois over the past decades has ensured that quality care has always been available to those in need. Established by Dr. Winkleman, the Primary Care Group of Harrisburg, which has since evolved to become SIH Medical Primary Care Group Harrisburg, is among his many initiatives designed to ensure high-quality primary care. Especially important to this goal has been the successful recruitment of other dedicated physicians to the clinic.

Dr. Winkleman's focus on primary care has led him to host medical students from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine to expose them to the need and opportunity which family medicine offers. Several students have followed Dr. Winkleman's example and themselves gone into rural family medicine.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize Dr. Winkleman for his leadership in health care in Southern Illinois. His dedication to this cause has benefited thousands, and I am pleased that he has been selected by the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians to receive their 2019 Distinguished Service Award.

IN HONOR OF ARMY SPECIALIST JOHN W. ODIERNO OF FARMINGDALE

**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 compelled 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 others 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 Kon 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 themselves trapped and outnumbered.

Despite being wounded, Specialist Odierno defended his position for twenty minutes, al-

lowing his fellow soldiers to reload their weapons. 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 fall on the battlefield that day. The men who witnessed his heroic actions 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 sacrifice, 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 American, Gary Batton, for receiving the Global Citizen Award from the Happy World Foundation.

After receiving a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1989, he accepted the position of Deputy Director of the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority. He then went on to serve his tribe 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 Texoma Medical Center Board of Directors, among other roles.

As a proud Oklahoman and member of the Chickasaw Nation, I have always been passionate about advocating on behalf of Native Americans here in Washington, D.C. Therefore, I am very grateful that there are Oklahomans like Gary Batton who have committed themselves to promoting Native American heritage. He has rightfully earned recognition for his role as an ambassador for Native Americans, 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 culture.

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 recently, the United States government conducted 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 individuals in Turkey which then led her to Aleppo, Syria. This is a region where most humanitarian workers would not go but Kayla was not like most people. En route to Aleppo, she was abducted, held captive, tortured, and eventually perished at the hands of al-Baghdadi. The mission that killed the ISIS leader was a historically 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 impact 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 has 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 memory.

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 student populations. Only four Iowa schools were chosen this year. Winterset Middle School serves just over 400 students in 4th through 6th grades. Under Principle 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 Assistance". 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, administrators, parents, and students in Iowa's 3rd District. The school attributes this 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**

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. 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 at least one prescriber's electronic prescribing system or electronic record so beneficiaries can have better information about their drug plan at the point of prescribing.

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 to commemorate and recognize the 150th Anniversary of the first college football game and the importance of college football to our country.

That first game, played on November 6, 1869, featured Rutgers College (now Rutgers University) defeating the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) by a score of 6–4. Since then, more than five million Americans have participated in college football, a game that is now woven into the very fabric of our country. American Football has become the most popular sport in our great nation, and without the developmental landscape provided by the college competitive format, that would never have been possible.

Thanks to the influence of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, the college game instituted the single most influential rule change in the history of American Football: the introduction of the forward pass. Notre Dame players Gus Dorais and Knute Rockne perfected the forward pass from a gimmick into a unique and defining feature of the game. On November 1, 1913, in a game against Army, the Notre Dame Fighting Irish unleashed one of the first sophisticated passing attacks to win in an upset by a score of 35–13. Later, in 1914, legendary University of Illinois Head Coach Robert Zuppke used an early version of the "T formation", which became the blueprint for modern college and professional football offenses.

Since then, college football has grown in scope and spectacle over the years. It has served as a proving ground for innovation in the game and on the field, and has produced U.S. Presidents, Rhodes Scholars, actors, chief executives of businesses, entrepreneurs, academics, and elected officials off the field.

Watching or playing college football allows us—even if just for the span of a few short hours—to put our differences aside and celebrate a game that in many ways embodies the spirit of what makes us great as a country. As

Americans we believe in having the will to succeed; we believe in teamwork; we value grit and determination; we embrace our individual roles as we work to advance an idea, concept, or organization bigger than ourselves. College football has drawn participants from every corner of America, and we see the diversity of our nation in the faces of the players and coaches on the field every Saturday.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the schools, teams, coaches, players, and fans who participate in college football on the celebration of this incredible milestone. I hope that the next 150 years of college football bring all of us just as much passion, joy, and fulfillment as the last 150 years have.

**CONGRATULATING THE WAYNESBORO LIONS CLUB**

**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 Waynesboro Lions Club of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania on its 90th anniversary.

Chartered on November 6, 1929, the Waynesboro Lions Club has faithfully executed its mission to serve the residents of the Waynesboro community by providing support to charitable organizations such as the Waynesboro 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, Waynesboro Lions Club has supported the Lion Club network in neighboring communities by sponsoring the Chambersburg Evening Lions Club, Penn National Lions Club, Waynesboro Area Lioness Lions Club, and Waynesboro Area Middle School LEO Club.

Please join me in congratulating the Waynesboro 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 track 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 investiture.

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, jet-ties, 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 effects 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. **Pages S6242–43**

#### 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. **Page S6241**

#### 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. **Page S6254**

**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. **Pages S6254–55**

**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. **Pages S6255–56**

**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. **Page S6256**

**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. **Page S6256**

#### 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: **Pages S6206–20**

##### Pending:

Shelby Amendment No. 948, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6206**

McConnell (for Shelby) Amendment No. 950, to make a technical correction. **Page S6206**

**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. **Pages S6220–35**

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. **Page S6235**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the joint resolution at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, October 30, 2019. **Page S6235**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S6240**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S6240**

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.*

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# 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 ye-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 590, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 589.

**Pages H8550–52, H8558–59**

**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 ye-and-nay vote of 405 yeas to 11 nays with 3 answering “present”, Roll No. 591.

**Pages H8559–68, H8583–84**

H. Res. 655, the rule providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 296) was agreed to by a ye-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 588, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 587.

**Pages H8552–58**

**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 ye-and-nay vote of 403 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 592;

**Pages H8568–76, H8584–85**

**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;

**Pages H8576–79**

**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;

**Pages H8580–83, H8585**

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

**Page H8585**

**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.

**Pages H8585–87**

**Senate Referral:** S. 134 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Page H8593**

**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 ye-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

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled “One Year Later: Implementation of the TSA Modernization Act”. Testimony was heard from Patricia F.S. Cogswell, Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; and William Russell, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office.

## 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

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship held a business meeting on the Request for a Department of Homeland Security Departmental Report on the Beneficiaries of H.R. 631. The Request for a Department of Homeland Security Departmental Report on the Beneficiaries of H.R. 631 was agreed to.

## 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 Financial Services*, Full Committee, continue 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”, Time TBA, 2128 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.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Discussion Draft Bill, Amendments to PROMESA Act of 2019—Day Two”, 2 p.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 Small Business*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Force of Nature: The Power of Small Businesses in America’s Recreational Infrastructure”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*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.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Native Veterans’ Access to Healthcare”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

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

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

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.

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 1373—Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act. Consideration of H.R. 2181—Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019. Consideration of H.R. 823—Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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